



HIS EXCELLENCY THE EARL OF LYTTON, GOVERNOR OF BENGAL.

# Calcutta and Environs.

AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORICAL GUIDE TO PLACES  
OF INTEREST AND TO THOSE SUITABLE  
FOR EXCURSIONS IN AND AROUND  
CALCUTTA

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*President, Bengal Legislative Council.*

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**MAHARANA BHUPAL  
COLLEGE,  
UDAIPUR.**

*Class No.....*

*Book No.....*

## FOREWORD

In the following pages an attempt ~~has been~~ made to put before the new-comer and the tourist a few simple descriptive notes to direct him to the prominent places of interest in the city of Calcutta and its environs. Whenever possible brief historical notes have been added to show the association of the present day buildings and localities with Old Calcutta.

At the beginning of the book a short history of the origin and development of Calcutta with the rise of British Power in India has been given. An account of its physical geography, climate, drainage and water-supply has also been added in the hope that these may prove interesting as an example of what scientific town-planning and sanitation can achieve against dirt and disease.

To facilitate a tour of inspection with the minimum expenditure of time and money an index has been prepared in which the different localities and principal streets in the town and suburbs have been classified alphabetically and the names of places of interest likely to be visited in each have been grouped together.

Excursions by means of railway train service and motor cars as well as those by means of ferry steamers plying up and down the river have been suggested to various suitable places. In this way several localities with old and historic associations between Howrah Station and Bandel Junction on the E. I. Railway and Sealdah Station and Barrackpore on the E. B. Railway can be conveniently visited.

Miscellaneous information concerning places of amusement and recreation, such as cinemas, theatres and clubs has been given as an appendix. The list of principal banking agencies, foreign consulates and

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hospitals may also prove useful to the tourist and the new-comer. With the same object an up-to-date map of Calcutta has also been appended.

I take this opportunity of expressing my indebtedness to the Hon'ble Mr. H. E. A. Cotton, C.I.E., President, Bengal Legislative Council, for the help I have received from his comprehensive book, "Calcutta Old and New," and for his kindly writing the Introduction to this edition.

I must also thank Professor Rushbrook-Williams, C.B.E., Director of Central Bureau of Information to the Government of India, who as official historian attached to H. R. H. the Prince of Wales's tour in India and Burmah, kindly brought my humble brochure to the notice of His Royal Highness during his visit to Calcutta in 1922.

I am obliged to Mr. Lal Chand, Proprietor of the firm of Messrs. Lal Chand and Sons, Calcutta, for giving me special facilities of work in his Printing Department.

This book was originally written to serve as a "GUIDE" for visitors to Calcutta during the eighth session of the Indian Science Congress in 1921. It has now been revised and brought up to date, but owing to pressure of professional and other duties the matter had to be rushed through the press and I crave the indulgence of the reader for the shortcomings that may be noticed.

HASSAN SUHRAWARDY.

## INTRODUCTION.

“There is always room for a guide to Calcutta.” Year after year, even month after month, the landmarks of the past are being obliterated. The Improvement Trust is hard at work driving broad thoroughfares in every direction and the builder of mammoth mansions is busy. Very soon hardly a vestige will remain even of the Calcutta which some of us knew twenty or thirty years ago. My friend Dr. Hassan Suhrawardy is doubly qualified for the task which he has undertaken. He is not only inspired with genuine interest in the history of the city in which he has made his home; he is in addition one of those Indians who combines so successfully the best features of the Western education with the immemorial traditions of the East. I accede with pleasure to his request that I shall write a few words by way of introduction to his book; not because he stands in need of any commendation, but because I rejoice to find an Indian following in the footsteps of Dr. Busteed and other English lovers of Calcutta.

The three Presidency towns stand out from among the other cities of British India by reason of the fact that they are the creation of British enterprise and energy. Each has its own distinctive features. The splendid harbour of Bombay which prides itself upon being the first city in India—*urbs prima in Indis*—in point of time only—and the green freshness of Madras—that city of historic renown, and of distances—may be held to constitute their own peculiar charm. But there is something about Calcutta which is altogether lacking in her sister Presidency towns. She cannot claim to be the earliest possession of the English in India; and she has inherited none of the traditions that linger around the audience chambers of the Great Mogul. Delhi with her Imperial



memories, Agra with her majestic monuments and past associations to which our city set among marshes—*urbs inter paludes*—of old Job Charnock can never aspire. But for a century and a half she was the central seat of the British Government in India. There is everything in Calcutta to remind her citizens and to impress upon the strangers within her gates that she is not only the second city of the British Empire, as the Prince of Wales described her, but also the first capital of the British Raj in India—Wellesley's stately Government House, the statues of the past Governor-Generals, upon her wide expanse of the emerald-green maidan, the snow-white fabric of the Victoria Memorial Hall, the massive block of Government offices, the long area of thriving shops upon Chowringhee, the rows of warehouses and of jetties and docks, the river with its multitudes of steamships, the hum and bustle of the restless mercantile quarter with its magnificent buildings, the large European colony whose counterpart whether in numbers or influence will be sought in vain at new Delhi or in the other Presidency towns, the palaces of wealthy Indian noblemen, the signs upon every hand of opulence and prosperity and ceaseless activity. The very names of the streets having their own adventure to tell. Imperfections she possesses, but nothing can deprive her of the vague and tantalizing charm with which she vanquishes her critics.

In these pages Major Suhrawardy has assembled very many sources of available information with regard to the past history of Calcutta and has not been afraid to project a glance into the future. Whatever may be in store for Calcutta, we may be sure that she will always prove worthy of the motto which is subscribed below the arms of the city—*Pet ardua stabilis esto*.

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## CHAPTER I.

### CALCUTTA.

[PART I.]

#### *The History of its Origin and Development.*

WHEN the Europeans first started commercial relations in Bengal, Satgaon and Hooghly were the chief ports. With the decline of Satgaon due to the river shifting its course the port of Hooghly rose to great eminence under the Portuguese and the Dutch merchants, and the river Bhagirathi, the chief branch of the Ganges, came to be called the river Hooghly after this important town on its west bank.

The Dutch established a factory at Chinsurah in 1625, and the English factory was completed in 1658, higher up the river on the opposite side at Kassim Bazar near Murshidabad, the then capital of Bengal. The Ganges has always been the great commercial waterway of Bengal and as a consequence of the impetus caused by the diversion of the trade of Satgaon from other channels into its chief offshoot, the Hooghly river, villages sprang up rapidly on either side, inspite of the unhealthiness and the marshy nature of the surrounding country which was thickly covered with forest and jungle, the home of wild beasts and reptiles, and pestilential fevers. Sutanuti, Gobindapur and Kalikhetra was a group of three such little villages and the story of how they served as the nucleus of our great city of Calcutta is most interesting. Job Charnock, the founder of Calcutta, was senior Agent of the East India Company and seems to have deliberately selected the villages as the mid-day halting place of the English merchants on their journey up the river.



The story of a convenient mid-day halting place must have been invented as a blind for the benefit of the Moghul authorities. The vessels of the European merchants on their way up the river as a matter of fact used to halt at Bator on the opposite bank, near Sibpur in Howrah, and there was no special reason for abandoning it. The chief cause which must have influenced Charnock in selecting this site appears really to have been its commercial and strategic advantages as the future headquarters of British trade and influence in Bengal and not its convenience as a half-way halting place for rest and refreshment.

The English came to Bengal about the middle of the 17th century as traders, but soon became merchant-princes and by the time of Job Charnock, had realised that they must protect themselves and their commercial enterprise, by the force of their own right arm. The rôle of peaceful merchants begging favours at the hands of the Moghul Governor had disappeared and the idea of being on a footing of equality with the effète government of the Nawab had already gained ground and we find that the claim for building a fort and for coining their own money had been boldly put forward.

The site selected by Charnock to found a British settlement suitable as the future headquarters of British trade in Bengal was chosen, because the Hooghly river tapped most of the rich tracts of the Gangetic Valley, and the place was situated at the highest point to which the river was navigable by large sea-going vessels, the site had thus a distinct advantage over both Hooghly and Chandarnagar. In addition to this being nearer the sea, it could provide greater facilities for sea-borne trade and for withdrawal into safety in case of a reverse of fortune, a contingency which some years later was actually

availed of after the capture of the town and fort of Calcutta by Nawab Siraj-ud-Dowla. Furthermore there were no refractory and intriguing factions like the Dutch, the Portuguese and the French to contend with, neither were there the *Faujdar* or the military commander of the Nawab and his troops with whom it was expedient to have as little to do as possible so as to avoid the possibilities of friction. The site had also the additional advantage of being near enough the other European settlements to keep the English promptly informed of what was going on there. Provisions too were plentiful and could easily be obtained from the flourishing *hâts* or the weekly market-places in the villages. The villages themselves and the adjacent country to the north, east and south, were owned by Hindus, from whom land could be obtained on easier terms than from the Muhammadans who were more prosperous and the then ruling power. The river itself served as a great barrier against invasions from the west and also provided a most effective means of protection from the guns of the shipping. The place was also difficult of access on the east and north on account of the salt lakes, morasses, rivers and creeks. On the south it was protected by a mud fort near Garden Reach and Raigarh opposite Makwa Tana, where the river was narrowest.

(The name Matiabruj is derived from the existence of this mud fort. Matia in Urdu means made of mud and Bruj is an Urdu word derived from Persian and means a tower of a fortress. Garden Reach is still called Matiabruj by Indians. A strong iron chain extended from shore to shore between the fortress of Matiabruj and that of Mawka Tana, and used to be pulled up to serve as a barrier against invasions by marauding parties from the sea-coast.)

A short note about these three riparian villages may not be out of place here. *Sutanuti* was the most prosperous of the three villages on which the modern City of Palaces stands. It was a cotton mart largely visited by European merchants and traders

The Three  
Riparian  
Villages.

jungle and erected houses there. They established a *hât* and a shrine to their patron deity "Vishnu" who is also called Gobindji, hence the name Gobindapur. The well-known Seal family of Calcutta were also among the early settlers of this place as were also the present Mullick family of Chorebagan.

To the south of the first two villages, but extending a little more inland, lay another village of less importance commercially but of more interest from the religious point of view of the Hindus.

In a lonely part of this village on the banks of Adi Ganga or the original Ganges (modern Tolly's Nulla), was situated a very old temple dedicated to the dreaded goddess Kali to whom human sacrifices were offered. *Kali-khetra* was the name of the surrounding locality and it is said to have derived its sanctity and its name from the fact that a piece of the toe of Sati, otherwise known as Kali, the wife of Shiva, had dropped on the site of the temple. Kali is also called Bhawani and hence the adjacent village is known as Bhawanipur after her.

Either through superstition or in order to please the local Hindus the European merchants used to propitiate this goddess by large offerings prior to undertaking important enterprises. As the land route,—a solitary pilgrim path extending along the jungle—was unsafe, they approached the temple by the river, alighting at the ghat or landing-stage called Kalighat which meant the landing-stage of the temple of Kali.

It is very probable that ghat was transliterated in English as ghata just as the Europeans write Ram as Rama, Navadwip as Navadwipa. Thus Kali ghat became Kali ghata, and its transition thence to Kali-kata, and Calcutta is easy to follow. Similarly Baliaghat which means a sandy ghat has now become Belia ghatta by the same process. It is also possible that Kali-khetra came to be pronounced as Kali Kheta, Kalikata, and finally Calcutta.

dealing in cotton bales. The name seems to be derived from Suta (thread) and Luti (Bengali for bundle or a hank). The word Luti is pronounced as Nuti by many Bengalees as a provincialism. It was in the market-place of this thriving cotton mart called Sutanuti Hât that Job Charnock while seated on a divan under a great peepul tree leisurely smoking his hookah in true oriental fashion, evolved his plan of founding a British settlement there. This spot in the market-place was called *Baithak-khana*, the Indian name for a parlour,—literally it means a sitting place. It was the Bengal Club as well as the Chamber of Commerce for the British merchants of that time and served as a *rendezvous* from which they dispersed with goods for their different factories and sallied forth for their itinery into the country, in groups with the double purpose of providing company to each other, and also of protecting themselves from attacks by robbers, wild beasts and snakes. The Baitakkhana was situated near the present terminus station of the Eastern Bengal Railway, known as the Sealdah station. Charnock's peepul tree stood near the junction of Bow Bazar Street and Lower Circular Road. There is a market which survives to the present day and is still known as the Baitakkhana Bazar. There is however no trace of this historical tree. This old landmark was felled in 1820, to make room for the new road (part of Lower Circular Road), then under construction. Although as a result of an appeal Lord Hastings intervened on its behalf, it was too late, for the tree had already been cut down.

(Sealdah in those days was a thinly populated locality and the dense jungle near by was a veritable jackal's den, hence the name Sealdah from a corruption of a Persian word *Sheghal-deh* which means a jackal village. *Sheghal* means a jackal, *Deh* means a village.)

To the south of Sutanuti, on the site on which Fort William is now situated, was the village of *Gobindapur*. It is said that four families of Basaks (weavers) and Setts (money-lenders) cleared the

jungle and erected houses there. They established a *hât* and a shrine to their patron deity "Vishnu" who is also called Gobindji, hence the name Gobindapur. The well-known Seal family of Calcutta were also among the early settlers of this place as were also the present Mullick family of Chorebagan.

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Anyway this village and the area known as Kalikhetra by its growth and expansion eventually absorbed the neighbouring villages of Gobindapar and Sutanuti which were thus forgotten and Calcutta alone remained known, and became world-famous.

Job Charnock, the founder of Calcutta, first came to Bengal in 1682, and was employed at Kassim Bazar and also worked at Hooghly, Sutanuti, Uluberia and Hidjli. Charnock was associated with an expedition against the Nawab's men in which he was defeated and had to retreat to Fort St. George in Madras in 1689. He was shortly afterwards superseded by Captain Heath. Charnock remained in Madras till July, and after patching up a reapproachment with the Nawab again sailed for Bengal, being re-appointed as the Senior Agent of the East India Company. On August 24th 1690, Job Charnock landed at Sutanuti at the place now known as the Mahantos' ghat above Nimtolla "burning ghat" and laid the foundation of the Capital of the British Empire in India. The great founder did not survive this event long. On January 10th 1693, Charnock died and was interred in the burial ground on which now stands St. John's Church, the old Cathedral of Calcutta. It was then an open and dreary place surrounded by a ditch and was the haunt of wild boars and jackals. Charnock's marriage was romantic. It is said that during one of his nightly sojourns by the river bank near the British factory at Titagarh he rescued a beautiful Hindu widow from the flames of the funeral pyre of her husband. The young woman whom he so dramatically saved from the cruel rites of the *Sati* was united in marriage to him. Children were born of this wedlock and after some years of happy married life she predeceased him. Charnock never married again and in loving memory of his wife always observed the anniversary day of her death and offered sacrifices by cutting off the head of a cock at her tomb "in the heathen fashion,

inspite of the opposition of the priests." According to his own wish his last resting-place is beside that of his dearly beloved wife and the mausoleum over his grave was built in 1694 by his son-in-law Sir Charles Eyre, the first President of Fort William.

Religious non-interference was the usual rule observed by Europeans with regard to their Indian wives. There can be no doubt that Charnock's wife was allowed to retain her original religion after her marriage with him. She being a Hindu it is difficult to explain why she was buried and not cremated, and why an animal considered unclean by Hindus was sacrificed at her tomb? The explanation may be that many Hindus who lose their caste by contact with non-Hindus become Baishnabs, who after death are buried instead of being cremated. The evil spirit which is supposed in some instances to get hold of the body after death is propitiated by animal sacrifice. The Hindus who advised Charnock to adopt the aforesaid method of commemorating the anniversary of his wife's death must have satisfied themselves that she had become a *bhoot* or evil spirit on account of her having lost her caste due to her marriage with a European and to save themselves from this "ghost" arranged for the propitiation by the sacrifice of a cock, which is reputed to be highly relished by evil spirits and ghosts.

Charnock had two daughters. Mary, the elder, was married to Sir Charles Eyre and died shortly after he became the President of Fort William. She lies buried in the mausoleum by the side of her parents. The younger daughter Catherine married one Jonathan White. She also died at Calcutta in 1700 and was buried in St. John's churchyard. No trace of her grave can be found.

Doubts have been thrown on Charnock's having married an Indian woman and of her being the mother of his daughters Mary and Catherine. In support of this Col. Yule states that a European in

those days could not have dared to abduct a *Sati* widow from the pyre. This is hardly correct. Europeans were less conventional in those days than they are now, and the Chief of the British factory at Titagarh could do much more than rescue a Hindu female from the cruel rites of *Sati* and then give the unfortunate outcaste a home and the legal status of a wife. There is no proof to rebut the weight of the evidence of tradition handed down from both Indian and European sources. The fact of Sir Charles Eyre burying his wife in the mausoleum which he had built over the grave of the "Old Agent" who was buried alongside of his Indian wife lends colour to the theory that Lady Eyre was Charnock's daughter by this Indian lady.

From a correspondence, discovered by Col. Yule himself, in the British Museum Library, between Mary Eyre and Catherine Charnock, and Lady Wintworth, wife of Sir Henry Johnson, M.P., it seems that India was their land of birth.

Lady Johnson while sending them a present writes :—

"Could think of nothing ells to send believing yt in *your pleasant country* nothing can be a rarity but wt came from itt."

The history of the development of the great city of Calcutta from three obscure and unhealthy villages in the marshy surroundings of the Gangetic delta from thatched huts and mud houses called *mutkothas* to the City of Palaces and the London of the East, not only reflects glory on the nation whose skill and enterprise have worked out this wonderful evolution but is also a demonstration of the triumph of sanitary science and engineering skill over dirt and disease for which old Calcutta was notorious.

The greatness of modern Calcutta is undoubted. There is hardly any place east of Suez which can vie



with it. Calcutta became the first capital of the great British Indian Empire, and inspite of the transference of the seat of government to Delhi in the words the the King-Emperor : " It still continues to be the premier city of India." It is certainly the largest in size and in trade in India and is next only to London in the British Empire. It possesses the greatest historical associations for the British and has the characteristics of a European town and affords more of the amenities of urban life than any other city in India. Its trade is greater than that of Bombay and Madras put together and its population at the census of 1921 was 1,327,547, which exceeds that of Bombay which comes next by nearly 72,862. The foreign trade in the port in the year preceding the great European War of 1914 amounted to 65 crores of rupees and exports nearly to 95 crores.

One cannot however refrain from remarking that even inspite of the activities of the " Improvement Trust " there is in modern Calcutta a confusion of very superb and very lowly houses. Dead walls, huts, warehouses and godowns built without any idea of symmetry in the midst of fine pucca buildings, jar one's sense of the beautiful and the sublime. The splendid river front could also be immensely improved by substituting the ugly warehouses by a grassy bund and promenade, as a green fore-shore to the Strand Road with its magnificent buildings as the background.

Although I have given in detail my reasons for not accepting the ancient theory that the site of Calcutta was chosen by chance, as a mid-day halt of Charnock, I cannot help quoting from Rudyard Kipling's ditties, the following most appropriate description of this city :—

" Thus the mid-day halt of Charnock more's the pity  
Grew a city

As the fungus sprouts chaotic from its bed  
So it spread

Chance directed, chance erected, laid and built,  
On the silt

Palace, myre, hovel, poverty and pride,  
Side by side.

And above the packed and pestilential town,  
Death looked down."

It must be admitted that the climate of Calcutta is still considered by up-country people as rather enervating and its fog in the winter months and its humidity in the summer are certainly annoying.




Modern Calcutta nevertheless is perhaps the healthiest and cleanest town for its size in India, and cannot be called pestilential. The triumphs of sanitary engineering and scientific town-planning, providing efficient drainage and good water supply have eradicated diseases like cholera, dysentery, diarrhoea, malarious and enteric fevers which were the scourge of old Calcutta and they are no longer endemic in this town.

After the death of Charnock the settlement founded by him continued to progress and develop. A local rebellion was utilised as an excuse for the construction of a fort in 1693 the need for which had been felt for many years, in order to safeguard the commercial and industrial interests of the Company. This was the old fort which occupied the site now bounded by the East Indian Railway House in Fairlie Place on the north, and the General Post Office and Koila Ghat Street on the south. The river which in those days flowed where now the Strand Road runs formed the western, and Dalhousie Square with its tank was its eastern, limits.

The defences of the settlement were further strengthened by means of big entrenchments on its outside limits when the Mahratta raiders in 1742 attacked Bengal and appeared on the opposite bank of the river and captured the fort of Makwa Tana

opposite Garden Reach. The entrenchment was called the "Mahratta Ditch" and followed the course of the modern Lower Circular Road.

The prosperity of Calcutta continued unabated till it was captured by Siraj-ud-Dowla in 1756. The defences had been neglected on account of the growing sense of security and the guns of the fort and of the shipping had got masked by the surrounding buildings which were allowed to be constructed without any consideration of possible military requirements. The English had not expected the invasion, when the Nawab began hostilities and by swift marches arrived in front of the very gates of Calcutta. The presence of his army caused the greatest consternation. Governor Drake and many other officials fled panic-stricken to the ships which weighed anchor and soon dropped down the river and thence withdrew to Madras. The garrison was left to its fate, but put up a stubborn defence under the leadership of a gallant Irishman named John Zephania Holwell till it was driven to surrender. He and his companions numbering 146 men and women were according to tradition confined for the night in the prison of the fort, a small room measuring 18 by 14 feet. Ventilation was provided in this room by means of only two small grated windows. The heat was intense, the closely packed crowd endured terrible sufferings and when the morning came and the door was opened only 23 were found alive. This is known as the Black Hole Tragedy. (For full details, *vide* descriptive notes, pages 64—67.)

Calcutta was recaptured by Clive and Admiral Watson early in 1757. The prosperous Muhammadan town of  was bombarded in retaliation, and the  the victims of the Black Hole was aver  battle of Plassey was fought

and Nawab Siraj-ud-Dowla's army defeated and dispersed. He was deposed and his Commander-in-Chief, and Pay-Master-General, Mir Muhammad Jaffar Ali Khan who had helped the British and entered into a secret treaty with Clive, was put on the *Musnad* of Bengal by the English. Siraj-ud-Dowla fled from Murshidabad, but was captured in the hills of Raimahal and brought as a captive to Murshidabad where Sadeq Ali Khan, commonly known as Miran, the eldest son of Mir Jaffar, had him put to death.

The Company were given adequate indemnity by the Nawab. Heavy compensation was also paid to the merchants by the Nobles and the State. A part of the money received from the Nawab was utilised by Clive to build a new fort. The inhabitants of Gobindapur were removed and the jungles cleared and the foundations of the present Fort William were laid. The clearing of the jungle round the glacis of the fort by Clive led to the formation of the famous *Maidan*, an open space, of which Calcutta is justly proud. The fort was finished in 1773, and since then the town of Calcutta has gone on expanding and flourishing uninterruptedly.

It is remarkable how the power of organisation and the spirit of enterprise of a handful of British factors steadily augmented the prestige and power of the East India Company, to such an extent that within one short century they were in a position to dictate terms to the Nawab Názims of Bengal, who henceforth became their nominee.

In 1765, Clive obtained from Shah Alam II, Emperor of Delhi, a *Firmán* making over to the East India Company the *Dewani* (Revenue Administration) of the provinces of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa. At the same time the Company also took upon itself the military defence of the country. Thus within a short time after the Battle of Plassey the British became the *de facto* rulers of the country, while the

power and influence of the descendants of Mir Jaffar steadily waned till they became mere figureheads in the administration of the *Nizamat* of Bengal. Murshidabad, the famous capital of the Nawabs of Bengal, gradually fell into decay, and Calcutta, the headquarters of British trade and influence, rose to eminence and became the seat of the Governor-General of the British Company who ruled over Bengal and the adjoining provinces.

The Company organised a large and well-disciplined army recruited from the martial races of India, but trained and led by British Officers. Favoured by intercommunal feuds and the disorder and unrest following the dismemberment of the Moghul Empire, they extended their sway by degrees to other parts of India. "*Company Bahádur-ki-jai*"\* rose above the din of every important battlefield in the country and reverberated from the plateau of the Nilgiris to the heights of the Himalayas, and from the sea-shore by the Western Ghats to the hills of Assam, and the voice of the Governor-General at Calcutta became paramount in Indian politics.

In 1857, a hundred years after the Battle of Plassey the Sepoy Mutiny broke out and spread like wildfire throughout the length and breadth of the country and very nearly subverted British supremacy in India. After this great crisis the rule of the East India Company was terminated by a Royal Proclamation of Her Majesty Queen Victoria on 1st November 1858, and India came directly under the British Crown.

It proclaimed the principle of justice and religious toleration and granted a general amnesty to all mutineers, except those who had directly taken part in murders.

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\* Means "Victory to the valiant and the great Company." It was the hurrah of the Company's Indian troops called Sepoys by the Europeans. Sepoy is a corruption of the Persian word *Sepáhi*, meaning a soldier.

### The Proclamation said—

“Our subjects of whatever race or creed be freely and impartially admitted to offices in our service, the duties of which they may be qualified by their education, ability and integrity, duly to discharge.”

The Act of Parliament for the better government of India laid down that India should be governed by the sovereign of England through a Secretary of State assisted by a council of members and bestowed on the Governor-General of India the title of Viceroy. The last Governor-General, Lord Canning, became the first Viceroy of India and Calcutta became the capital of the British Indian Empire.

A closer association between English sovereigns and India was established in 1877 during the Viceroyalty of Lord Lytton. This gifted statesman captured the imagination of the people of this country by inaugurating a most gorgeous and magnificent Durbar at the old capital of the Great Moghuls. At this the first “Delhi Durbar,” resplendent with all the pomp and power of Royalty, and surrounded by the Princes and People of India, the Viceroy proclaimed the assumption of the title of “Empress of India” by Her late Majesty Queen Victoria.

### [PART II.]

#### *Physical Geography.*

##### *Climate, Drainage and Water Supply.*

Calcutta is situated in latitude  $22^{\circ} 23' 47''$  N. and longitude  $88^{\circ} 23' 34''$  E. It is very flat and is only 16 to 19 feet above the sea-level and  $86\frac{1}{2}$  miles from the sea. It is subject to violent cyclones and hurricanes which sweep up from the Bay of Bengal and cause great destruction to the shipping on the river and to the trees and houses on shore. They are generally associated with the commencement and the end of the south-west monsoon. Calcutta is also liable to shocks of destructive earthquakes.

It is admitted that in remote ages the whole of lower Bengal was a hilly country which by recessions due to earthquakes became a tidal swamp referred to by the early Hindu writers as "*Samatata*" which literally means level of the sea, and that the country has since gradually risen by a process of alluvial deposits forming a comparative highland fit for human habitation; hence a rich silt is found in the soil of Calcutta and the adjacent country.

From December 1835 down to April 1840, a series of boring operations were conducted under the superintendence of a committee of naturalists. The hole bored in Fort William to a depth of 460 feet below the mean sea-level proved that the soil consists of alternate layers of clay and sand to about 40 feet below the surface beyond which is quicksand. There are also peat beds at 30 to 35 feet and again at 382 to 395 feet, and fine sand and pebbles like those of the sea-shore at a depth of 170 to 180 feet and at 320 to 325 feet, as well as gneissic rocks.

Digging operations in connection with the foundation of buildings and excavations of deep tanks have not only shown the characteristic of the soil described above, but stumps of Sundri trees have on occasions been found standing upright embedded at short intervals. These prove that the country must have been at no great distance of time in the same condition as the Sunderbunds are at present, the subsidence of land having taken place as the result of earthquakes, and repeated deposits of silt in a tidal swamp has resulted in gradual reclamation in subsequent years.

Calcutta has got an essentially tropical *climate*. The temperature varies considerably, the extreme absolute range exceeds  $53^{\circ}$ , the maximum being  $106^{\circ}$  and the minimum  $52.7^{\circ}$ . The most unhealthy time are the months after the end of the rains and the most enjoyable are the winter months. Calcutta has three seasons; from November to the end of

February is the cold season, the hot months are from March till the second week of June, when the rains break; the wet season continues till September or the beginning of autumn. The coldest time of the year is the last week of December, and May is the hottest month. Those who can afford it, migrate to the hills during the hot months and again in September after the rains.

The humidity of Calcutta is very high. The average rainfall is about 66.04 inches. The greatest rainfall occurs in August and the least in December. The average atmospheric pressure in Calcutta 19 feet above the sea-level is 29.793 inches. It attains the highest point in December when it is 30.041 inches and its greatest fall is in the month of June and July with 29.551 inches. The barometer rises and falls twice during the 24 hours with clock-like regularity. The late Father Lafont of the St. Xavier's College stated that from about 4 A.M. the mercury rises slowly and steadily till about 9-30 A.M., then it begins to sink back in the tube till 4 to 5 P.M. Thus we have two maxima and two minima occurring very nearly at the corresponding hours of day and night.

From the earliest time the insanitary condition of the town attracted the notice of the authorities. The drains were merely irregular furrows in the soil left in a most filthy and uncleaned state and emitting the most offensive effluvia. The bottom of the drains were several feet below their supposed outlets, and the deposit of the putrid black and fermenting filth at the bottom consisting chiefly of the contents of the privies mixed with other organic matters in every stage of decomposition, gave off when disturbed, so disagreeable a stench that it was questionable whether it was prudent "to arouse its latent offensiveness." In the Fever Hospital Committee Report, Dr. W. Graham states:—"I had never found amidst this wilderness the green spot in which a philanthropic soul could repose and exclaim *hic sanitas*."



A Muslim new-comer very appropriately describes in Persian verse the pestilential climate of Calcutta in the time of Sir John Shore (1793—1798)—

آب شور و زمین سراسر شور \* شور فرمانروای الملک  
 داد و اسبها و حارث و بیچش \* این همه تحفهای کلند

### *Translation.*

The water is brackish (shore),

The soil is impregnated with saltpetre (shore),

"Shore" is the Governor of Calcutta.

Ringworm, diarrhœa, itches and dysentery are amongst the presents a new-comer receives from Calcutta.

(The word "shore" in Persian means brackish, barren and also salt impregnated. The poet has made a play on the word "shore" which was the surname of the Governor-General of the time.)

The first effort at good drainage was made by Lord Wellesley in 1803. Although Lord Dalhousie also tried to improve it, nothing appears to have been done towards the construction of an efficient drainage system until 1885. The scheme was sanctioned in 1857 and took 25 years to complete at a cost of more than 95 lakhs of rupees. The main and branch sewers drained the area of the city bounded by Circular Road, the Mahratta Ditch and the river Hooghly.

By gradual development and the expenditure of another 68 lakhs of rupees the town was supplied with a complete system of covered drains and sewers and thus Calcutta at last got an efficient water-borne system for the disposal of its sewage.

In olden times Calcutta depended for its *water-supply* on the river and on big tanks called "Dighis" of which the most famous was the "Lál Dighi" in Dalhousie Square. There were many tanks reserved for drinking purposes throughout the town. Wells were also requisitioned as a

source of supplying drinking water, but they were "shallow" as the subsoil water was close to the surface and therefore their water was neither safe nor good. Much of the sickness and pestilential diseases from which the inhabitants of Calcutta suffered in its earlier days must have been due to defective water-supply, bad drainage and want of conservancy arrangements. Lord Dalhousie was quick to recognise that one of the chief needs of Calcutta was the supply of good drinking water. As has already been mentioned he also considered the need of introducing a proper system of sewerage and drainage. About the year 1820 a system of open raised culverts was constructed in a few of the principal streets from which people would obtain water and which also served for feeding the larger tanks in the town when the level of water in them went down during the dry months. The water was pumped from the river into a settling tank from which it gravitated into the culvert. This method, of course, did not prevent contamination of the tanks from a polluted river or of the water while it was passing through the culverts. A culvert of this type can be seen to the east of the Eden Gardens—the old settling tank is still in use in connection with the supply of water to the adjacent swimming bath. The first attempt to supply filtered water to the town was commenced in 1867 and took three years to complete. A supply of six million gallons of filtered water per day at 15 gallons per head was estimated and the project cost 67 lakhs of rupees. With the inclusion of the Southern Suburbs in the main area, arrangements were made for supplying 20½ million gallons per day. Up to March 1908, the filtered water undertaking cost Rs. 1,92,73,730. The rapid growth of population rendered further extension necessary. The improved scheme provides for a supply of 40 million gallons of filtered water per day. A pumping plant at Pulta now puts pressure on the mains to Calcutta through which water

formerly flowed only by gravitation. There is also a large reservoir of 9 million gallons capacity at Tallah into which filtered water is pumped. From here it gravitates throughout the town and the tank also acts as a reserve if the pumps at Pulta fail. The water-supply is obtained from the river Hooghly at Pulta which is about 17 miles above Calcutta. Here the water is put into settling tanks to allow the matters held in suspension by the water to go down and settle with the assistance of a small quantity of alumino-ferric which helps the process of sedimentation which is very necessary during the rains when the water gets muddy. From these settling tanks the water is conducted slowly to sand filter-beds and after filtration flows by gravitation to collecting wells and is thence pumped through two cast-iron mains of about 4 feet diameter to the overhead reservoir at Tallah, the capacity of which is 9 million gallons.

In order to meet the demand for the purpose of watering the roads and gardens, as well as for flushing the sewers and water-closets, a supply of unfiltered water was also introduced and the old pumping machinery utilised for this purpose. This gives a supply of 20 million gallons per day. There are two complete distinct systems of mains for filtered and unfiltered water laid throughout the town.

#### *Area, Population, Sickness and Mortality.*

The area of modern Calcutta with its suburbs is 42 sq. miles with a population of 1,327,547, of which 940,841 are Hindus and 325,093 Muhammadans. Calcutta proper, excluding the suburbs, has an area of 32 sq. miles with a population of 907,851.

In 1922, there were 19.1 births and 29.1 deaths per 1,000 of population, calculated on the census taken in 1921. The infant mortality is 287 for every 1,000 births. More than a fourth of the total number of children born in Calcutta die before they are one year old, and over a third of the deaths occur during the first week of their lives. In my booklet

of the river, and connected with Calcutta by a pontoon bridge. The Eastern Bengal Railway ends at the Sealdah station, in the city itself and is situated near the famous *Baithakkhana* associated with Charnock.

Sea-going vessels, inland steamers and river crafts of every description bring passengers into Calcutta and land them on the various jetties and ghats on the east bank of the river Hooghly.

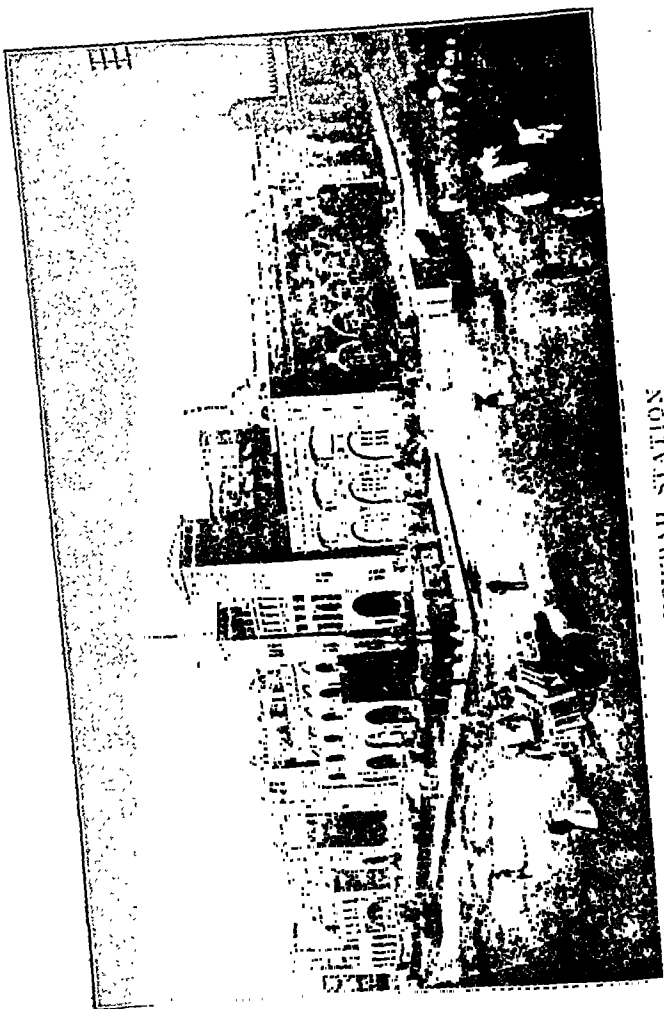
At the different railway stations and landing stages, porters called coolies and conveyances are always available. The drivers of taxi-cabs and phaetons, rickshaws and the box-shaped "Bund Gharis" and bullock-carts for heavy luggage, coolies and hotel agents, all bustling and struggling to capture the stranger, must present a fantastic sight to the new-comer to this London of the East.

It will be useful for the new arrivals from Europe and America to know that the official business hours in Calcutta are between 10-30 A.M. and 4-30 P.M. It is no use attempting to have an interview with any one in office before 11 A.M. The railway workshops and industrial undertakings, however, begin work early in the morning at about 7 A.M. Calcutta has a local time of its own which is 24 minutes in advance of the standard time, the Railway stations in Howrah and Sealdah and the sea-going vessels, however, observe the standard time.

The principal hotels, such as the Grand Hotel, the Great Eastern Hotel, the Spence's Hotel, the Continental Hotel are situated near Government House, and the business quarters.

### **Howrah Station.**

The Howrah station is a magnificent building with a clock tower, constructed by the East Indian Railway Company in the Byzantine style of architecture. It belongs jointly to the East Indian and the Bengal-Nagpur Railway Companies. The



HOWRAH STATION

waiting rooms for passengers of the upper classes and arrangement for meals are most up-to-date and comfortable. Intermediate class passengers have separate arrangements. There is a large third class passengers' waiting hall, and lavatories for men and women in the Indian style. Zenana waiting rooms are also provided for "Purdah Nashin" females. Indian refreshments of all kinds can be obtained from Hindu and Muhammadan vendors. The stalls kept by them are under the supervision of a Food Inspector, maintained by the Railway Company. In the central hall opposite No. 9 platform on a raised enclosure is kept in view the first locomotive engine which carried passengers on the East Indian Railway in 1857.\*

At the back of the 1st class booking office towards the north end of the main hall is a mural War Memorial of pretty design with the names of the officers and men of the East Indian Railway, who fell during the Great War of 1914-19.

The East Indian Railway is the pioneer railway in India. The first length of the line was opened on 15th August 1854. It now operates 2,772 miles of broad gauge railway (5'—6" gauge) and carries over 34 million passengers and 14 million tons of goods per annum. About 24,000 passengers arrive and leave Howrah station every day.

The Bengal-Nagpur Railway is a very progressive and flourishing line and has developed very much of recent years due to the energy and enterprise of the promoters of the undertaking. It started as a metre gauge railway in 1878 and now operates over 2,746 miles including both broad and metre gauge lines. The first and second class carriages are very comfortable and provided with most up-to-date fittings.

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\* In order to make room for the new Enquiry and Booking Offices, this engine has been removed in October 1923, and placed in front of the gate of entrance to the Workshops at Lilloah.



HOWRAH BRIDGE.

## Howrah Bridge.

The Pontoon bridge across the river Hooghly connects Calcutta with Howrah. It was originally constructed as a temporary measure and opened to traffic in October 1874; but the question of a permanent bridge has not been settled even up to the present day. The last New Bridge Committee reported in 1922 that, in view of the serious condition of the existing floating bridge and the grave consequences which would result from its failure, no time should be lost in providing a new bridge over the river Hooghly and that the bridge should be built of the cantilever type. Sir Bradford Leslie, C.E., K.C.I.E., built the present bridge; the structure is one of much novelty and originality in its design. It consists of 14 pairs of wrought-iron pontoons; the central portion is moveable and is removed at appointed times to allow ships to pass along the river. There is a footpath 7 feet wide at either side of the bridge and a roadway 50 feet wide in the centre for vehicular traffic. The bridge is 1,528 feet in length.

At either end of the bridge, the visitor will notice in the morning, an immense concourse at the *bathing ghats*, which have been built by pious Hindus. A mixed crowd of men and women will be seen taking their morning "dip," a practice which is considered a sacred duty.

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## CHAPTER III.

### *H. E. The Governor's Residence and other Important State Buildings.*

#### **Government House.**

The first Government House in Calcutta was situated within the old Fort William and was an imposing building which elicited the praise of Captain Alexander Hamilton, who saw it in 1717 and



referred to it as "the best and most regular piece of architecture ever seen in the East." This house was discarded after the re-capture of Calcutta by Clive and Watson in 1757 and the President resided in the "Company House" on the river bank south of the old Fort. In 1767 a new site was selected for the third Government House on the Esplanade at the south-west corner of Old Court House Street. The Council House stood next door. This Government House was called Buckingham House, but it was neither imposing nor capacious. Public functions were as a rule held in the Court House, which stood on the site of the present St. Andrew's Church, or at the Play House which was in Clive Street, behind Writers' Buildings.

Grandpre, who visited Calcutta in 1790 in the days of Lord Cornwallis, speaking of the Government House, says:—"He lives in a house in Esplanade opposite the Citadel—many private individuals have houses as good; the house of the Governor of Pondicherry is much more magnificent." Warren Hastings also showed disinclination to live in this house and Lord Wellesley wrote in clear terms to the Court of Directors in London that "India should be governed from a Palace and not from a Counting House, with the ideas of a Prince, and not with those of a retail dealer in muslin and indigo." Accordingly, Captain Charles Wyatt, Bengal Engineers, was directed to draw up a plan. He designed the present building on a magnificent scale, the architecture being technically classified as the Queen Anne and Georgian pediments and portico style. The buildings stand on more than six acres of well-laid-out grounds between the Maidan and the Eden Gardens, and command a clear view of over two miles to the south. The grounds of the present Government House absorb the site and enclosures of the old Government House and the adjacent Council House. The construction cost about 13 lakhs



HER EXCELLÉNCY THE COUNTESS OF LYTTON.

of rupees, the land Rs. 80,000 and the furniture Rs. 50,000. The foundation-stone was laid on the 5th February 1799, and the building was formally opened with a public reception on May 4th 1802, the third anniversary day of the fall of Seringapatam.

There are two magnificent gates on the east and on the west. Each has a lion dominating the huge masonry archway and resting one foot on a sphere representing the globe and is flanked at a lower level by smaller arches surmounted by a crouching sphinx. These gates are used for public entrance and exit. The entrance to the grounds facing the main building is to the north. The visitors' book is kept here. This gate is of pretty design with stone pillars capped by ornamental urns of the same material. The Royal Crest is seen worked in gold on the iron gates and two *Sawars* of H. E. the Governor's Body Guard are on duty here. The north gate leads to a magnificent flight of steps on which Calcutta society assembles to welcome incoming Viceroys and Governors. The ordinary entrance to the building is below under the stairs. On the south side is the gate used in 1911 for the State entrance of H. M. the King-Emperor George V. It bears the Royal Crest and the letters G. R. I. in gold. This gate is now used as the private entry gate. The general design of Government House is borrowed from Kedleston Hall in Derbyshire, the ancestral house of Lord Curzon. The central building is connected by galleries to four distinct wings. Each annexe is practically a separate house. The rooms are so planned that a current of air passes through all, no matter from which quarter the wind blows.

The Government House contains a fine collection of portraits of Governors-General of India and marble busts of the Caesars taken from a French ship at the end of the 8th century. There are also pictures of George III, of Louis XV and his Queen

by Carle Von Loo, said to have been captured from the French at Chandernagore in 1757, of the Duke of Clarence, the Duke of Wellington, and many others, and also of the sons of Tipu Sultan.\* The room in which the *Levee* is held is called the *Throne Room*, so called from the fact that the throne of Tipu Sultan was kept here after its removal from Mysore.

The centenary of the opening of Government House was held by Lord Curzon in 1902. During the State Ball they put on dresses of the period of 1802, and Lord Curzon impersonated Lord Wellesley. There was a peculiar fitness of things in the coincidence that this great Viceroy should celebrate the occasion, for apart from the association of Government House and Kedleston Hall, Lord Curzon like Wellesley understood what the *Izzat* or dignity of *Badshahat* or Sovereignty in the East meant and required.

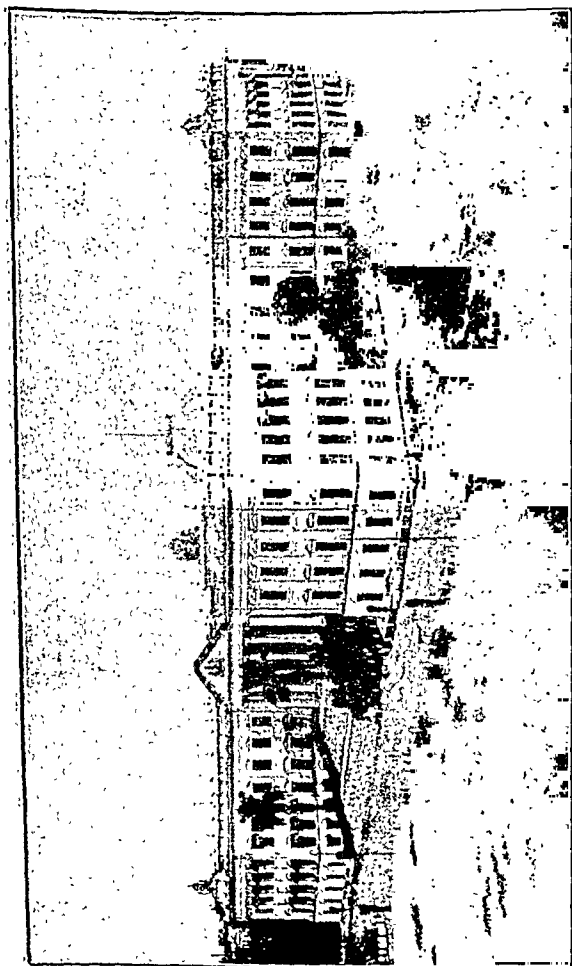
### Fort William.

The idea of building a new fort was mooted by Clive in August 1757 on his return from Murshidabad after putting Nawab Mir Muhammad Jafar Ali Khan on the throne of Bengal. Captain Brohier seems to have elaborated and planned the Fort.

The village of Gobindapur was cleared by Clive after giving sufficient compensation to the people who were induced to take away their patron deity Gobindji with them, and the tiger-infested jungle was reclaimed and the work commenced by Brohier at the end of the October 1757. The Fort was completed in 1773 at a cost of 2 million sterling. A large amount of money was spent in driving spikes to strengthen the banks and ward off the encroachment of the river. There was great difficulty in getting labour and the Company had to

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\* This collection of pictures have been removed in 1921 to the Viceregal Lodge at Delhi.



THE GOVERNMENT HOUSE (North view showing the Grand Stair Case).

resort to issuing orders that till the Fort was finished no one would be allowed to build a house of any kind in or about Calcutta and all brick-layers and coolies were impressed for the public service. This is the *bāgār labour* work referred to by old Indians, as the labourers got only a small subsistence allowance for the work and the rates were lower than those offered by private persons. The adjoining area now known as Hastings is still called *Cooli Bazar* by the Indians as the labourers working at the Fort took up temporary quarters at the place.

Special permission for visiting the Fort should be obtained from the Military authorities or by applying through the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bengal or to the Commissioner of Calcutta Police. It is a town in itself. The two messes inside it are of historic interest—one was the special residence of the Commander-in-Chief and as such was occupied by Lord Roberts and Lord Kitchener, and the other which is known as the Outram Soldiers' Institute and served as the residence of the Governor-General, Lord Wellesley, during the construction of the new Government House. Bishop Heber also lived here when he first arrived in India. The last king of Oudh, Wajid Ali Shah, lived in these quarters from 1856 for three years till he went to live in the palace built for him in Garden Reach.

The Stronghold has got seven gates—one called the Water Gate, faces the river near the Gwalior Monument, another called the Royal Gate, faces Chowringhee and is also known as the Chowringhee Gate, the Plassey Gate leads to the south of the Government House and the Calcutta Gate leads to the Eden Gardens, St. George's Gate, called by the Indians *Cooli Darwaza*, faces Hastings or Cooli Bazar; near the General Hospital and the seventh entrance called the Treasury Gate is dominated by the quarters of the Commander-in-Chief, now occupied by the General Officer Commanding the

Presidency and Assam District. The Fort is built in the shape of an irregular octagon—five sides facing the land and three the river. It is surrounded by a ditch which can be flooded with water from the river Hooghly. The buildings not being conspicuous above the surrounding country and also on account of the bomb-proof houses topped with earth it is called *Zamindoz Killa* or the Fort at the level of the earth in contradistinction to the old forts which used to tower high over the surrounding country. Fort William has not yet got its baptism of fire and its strength and security have not been tried. It is however reputed to be impregnable.

The glacis, the Esplanade and the *Maidan* belong to the Fort (*Killa*) the *Maidan* is therefore popularly called *Killa-ka-Maidan*.

### **His Majesty's Mint.**

It is situated on the Strand Road north of Howrah Bridge. The best time for visitors is between 11 A.M. and 1 P.M., as between those hours molten silver is poured. Persons wishing to visit the mint should apply to the Mint Master. The words "application for pass" should be written on the corner of the envelope. Generally, parties of not more than five persons are allowed, but special permission may be obtained for a larger number. The Pass should be presented at the warder's lodge. The Mint occupies  $18\frac{1}{2}$  acres of land, and as the building stands on land reclaimed from the river, the foundations are  $25\frac{1}{2}$  feet below the level of the road. The architecture is Grecian Doric and the central portico facing the Strand is a half-size copy of the temple of Minerva at Athens. The foundation was laid in March 1824 and the building took six years to complete; the construction cost 13 lakhs of rupees and the machinery 11 lakhs. This is said to be the largest mint of its kind in the world. The silver mint was opened in 1831 and the copper mint in 1865. In normal times the output is six lakhs of rupees per day.

Under the pressure of the demand due to the great War the daily output was increased to 20 lakhs in December 1918.

The visitors should not omit seeing the specimen coins preserved in special cases and the gold mohur first issued in 1835. A silver replica of the famous Waterloo gold medal can also be seen. It has been copied from one of the four originally struck and distributed to the four allied Sovereigns of Great Britain, Prussia, Russia and Austria.

Gold coin is no longer struck in the Calcutta Mint.

The mint or *Teksal* being an emblem of a ruling power the Moghul Emperors did not sanction a mint to the East India Company until 1700 when a formal *Firman* for this purpose was received from Delhi, according to which the English were permitted to coin the *Sicca* rupee for the Emperor of Delhi. It was not till 1835 during the reign of King William IV that English coinage was first introduced. The old mint stood in Church Lane opposite St. John's Church.

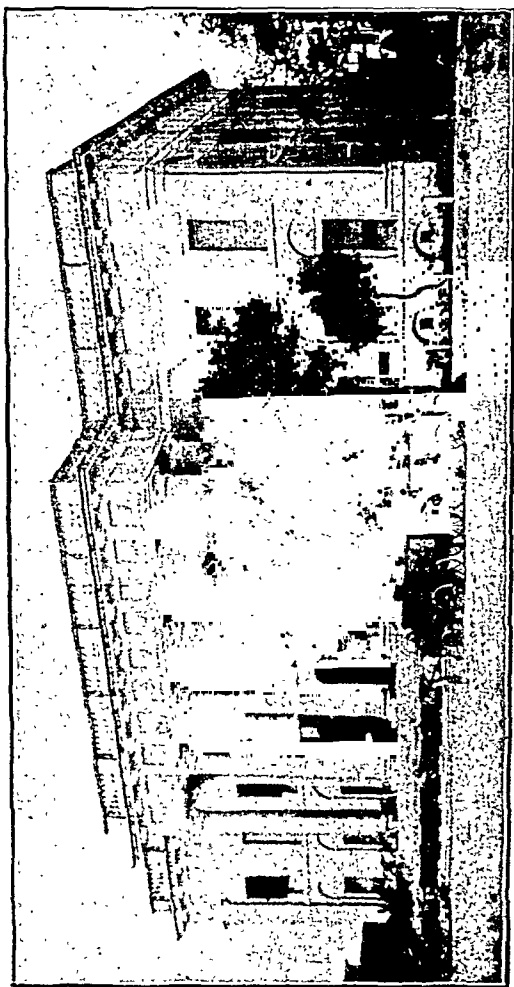
Shah Alum II was the last Emperor of Delhi to have a coin of his own which bore the following inscription :—

سکہ زد بر ہفت کشور سایۂ فضل الہی  
حامی دین محمد شاہ عالم بادشاہ

*Translation.*

The shadow of the favour of God, the Defender of the Faith of Muhammed, Emperor Shah Alum has struck the coin of the Realm current in seven kingdoms.





THE TOWN HALL.

## FER IV.

*Some Prominent Public Buildings and Institutions.***Town Hall.**

The Town Hall has been built on the site of the residence of John Hyde, one of the first three Puisne Judges of the Supreme Court. It is a large building of the Roman Doric style of architecture standing to the west of Government House, between the Treasury Buildings and the High Court. It was built at a cost of 7 lakhs of rupees raised by a series of annual lotteries. There is an English and a Persian inscription on a piece of stone let into the wall, one on either side of the southern portico, stating that the edifice was designed during the administration of Lord Wellesley and completed under the government of Lord Minto in the year 1813, the architect being John Garstin, Colonel of the Engineers. The magnificent flight of steps leading up to the southern entrance is chiefly used on ceremonial occasions, such as announcing the accession of the King-Emperors of India, or other important Royal proclamations. The ordinary carriage entrance is by the northern portico. The building consists of two storeys; the upper floor is boarded with teak, the lower hall is paved with white marble. The ground floor is now used as the Municipal Magistrates' Court rooms and also provides accommodation to their clerks and offices. The upper hall is divided into a central room and two aisles by a double row of pillars and had a raised platform at the eastern end and a music gallery at the western end and provided an admirable place for holding public meetings, receptions and dances.

In order to provide temporary accommodation for the enlarged Legislative Council after the Reforms the upper floor has been taken over by the Government of Bengal from January 1921. The

great saloon 172 feet in length and 67 feet in width has been divided into a central hall and two lobbies by putting up ferro-concrete walls between the pillars. The offices and library of the Legislative Department have been removed here from the Bengal Secretariat. The place has also been adapted to provide accommodation for a Committee room, and chambers for the President, the Members of the Executive Council, the Ministers and the Secretaries. Besides this there is a lounge for the use of the members of the Council. H. R. H. the Duke of Connaught formally opened the enlarged Legislative Council in this hall, on the 1st of February 1921.

In the Town Hall there is a good collection of statues, busts and portraits of both British and Indian Notables of the country.

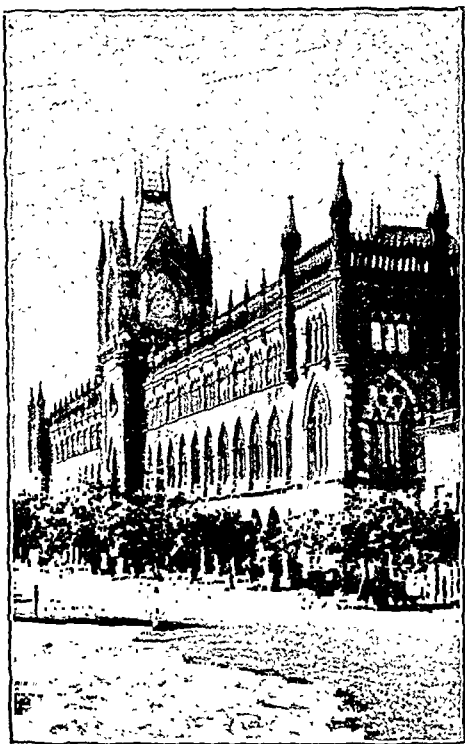
A sad incident is connected with this building. It was being utilised to provide some of the court rooms during the repairs of the High Court, and while the Acting Chief Justice, Mr. Justice Norman, was leaving the premises he was stabbed to death on the steps of the northern entrance by a Wahabi fanatic, on 21st September 1871.

### High Court.

The High Court is situated to the west of Government House almost at the junction of Esplanade West with Strand Road to the north of the Eden Gardens. It is one of the most imposing buildings in Calcutta built in somewhat florid Gothic style on the site of the old Supreme Court which occupied its western portion only. The builder was Mr. Walter Granville, the Government Architect. The general idea has been inspired by the Town Hall at Ypres. The foundations were laid in March 1864 and the work of construction completed in May 1872. The principal entrance is through the

handsome central tower on the south side which leads into the magnificent quadrangle of the building.

Facing the Maidan is a beautiful row of pillars running along the lower storey. The capitals of the colonnade are of Cæm stone beautifully sculptured, each one having a different design, the study of which is well worth the trouble. The tower is 180 feet high and is 15 feet higher than the Ochterlony Monument, but the massive-



THE HIGH COURT.

ness of the building conceals its real height. From this tower a panoramic view may be obtained of Calcutta and its environment, and on a clear day one can see the salt water lakes gleaming in the distance towards Belliaghata. To the east of the quadrangle in Old Post Office Street is the carriage entrance for the public. There are private entrances for the Judges on the west and the east. On application to the caretaker, a guide is supplied to show

the visitors all over the place. There is an excellent tram-car service to the High Court from all parts of the city.

In the archives of the High Court can be seen the papers relating to the famous trial of Nanda Kumar by Elijah Impey and of the case brought against Philip Francis by Grand (*vide* pages 50 and 86).

### Indian Museum.

This is an imposing building on Chowringhee Road between Sudder Street and the United Service Club. It was opened to the public in 1875. It is built on the site of the old High School which in 1863 was transferred to Darjeeling and is now known as St. Paul's School.

“ The façade has two stories of great height, in the Italian style of architecture, the two projecting wings and the central portico having elegant Corinthian columns. A broad flight of steps leads to a lobby, which opens on either side into a room 80 feet by 30 feet. Three series of arches lead to a double staircase of very fine proportions ascending to the right and left, and beyond the foot of the staircase the lobby opens on to a grass-laid quadrangle 180 feet by 105 feet, surrounded by a selection of tropical plants; around this the inner sides of the building form a piazza or arcade. The pairs of the arches are decorated on the side facing the quadrangle with engaged columns, in the Roman Doric style on the ground floor, and in the Roman Ionic on the first floor.” (“ Calcutta Old and New ” —COTTON.)

The Museum is popularly known as *Jadu Ghar*. It is called *Ajaib Khana* or the House of Wonders in Persian and certainly contains a most wonderful collection of exhibits of archæological interest, and specimens of what please even the eye of the uninitiated, such as stuffed birds, fishes, reptiles and animals of all descriptions, not even omitting spiders,

centipedes and scorpions and aboriginal types of men from the hills and the islands of India with their boats, weapons and armour and models of their houses. The art gallery is very interesting and the great gold throne of Thebaw, the last king of Burma, can be seen here.

The west gallery of the first floor contains the library of the Geological Survey of India.

Thursday and Friday mornings are reserved for students. On Thursday afternoon only Purdah ladies can visit the place. On Mondays and Fridays there is a guide in attendance. The Kalighat and Tollygunge tram-cars pass the doors.

### Art Gallery.

To the southern end of the Indian Museum in Chowringhee adjoining the United Service Club are the Government Art Gallery and the School of Art. The school was originally started in 1854 under the name of the Society for the Promotion of Industrial Art. Besides teaching lithograph, wood-engraving, modelling, stencilling, fresco-decoration, lacquer work, the curriculum includes free-hand drawing, painting in oil and water colour, and architectural drawing. The plaster decoration in the old Bengal Legislative Council Chambers in Writers' Buildings is the work of the early pupils of this Institution under Mon. Rigaud.

The Government Art Gallery is open to the public. Here the visitor will notice among other examples of Indian Art a fine collection of paintings of the Hindu and Muhammadan periods.

### Asiatic Society.

The Asiatic Society of Bengal, No. 1, Park Street, was founded by Sir William Jones, the then Chief Justice of Bengal, on the 15th of January 1784 with Warren Hastings as its first patron. The objects of the Society are well set out by its illustrious founder in his first discourse. He states that "the boundary of its investigations will be the

geographical limits of Asia and within these limits its enquiries will be extended to whatever is performed by man or produced by Nature." Since the foundation of the Society its literary activity has been uninterrupted and "the Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal" and "the Proceedings," contain materials of the highest interest in Science, Literature, Antiquity and Natural History.

A very important department of this Society, and one that has greatly added to its renown, is the *Bibliotheca Indica*. In 1838, the Court of Directors gave the Society a monthly grant of Rs. 500 for printing oriental works and since that time the Society has issued, under the above title, nearly a thousand fasciculi of numerous Sanskrit, Arabic, Persian, Pali and Hindi works, both in original and in translation, among them being a fine collection of the works of Indian historians. The monthly grant was continued, and in 1858 the Imperial Government increased it by Rs. 250 per mensem for the same purpose. In 1870 the Imperial Government sanctioned Rs. 3,200 per annum for the purchase and classification of manuscripts in Bengal.

The Museum of the Society up to 1866 contained a large collection of zoological and ethnological specimens, besides many archæological relics and statues of great value. These were offered to Government to be kept free in the proposed Imperial Museum. Thus the Asiatic Society supplied the nucleus of the present Indian Museum, and is therefore popularly called the *Purana Jadooghar*.

The Library contains about 15,000 volumes, more than 5,000 of which are Sanskrit, Arabic, Persian and Hindi manuscripts. There is also a fine collection of Burmese, Nepalese and Tibetan manuscripts. The bulk of the Arabic and Persian manuscripts form part of Tipu Sultan's library which was transferred from Seringapatam to the College of Fort William. Among the manuscripts

are many masterpieces of calligraphy and oriental painting. The Society has a rich collection of copper *sanads*, portraits, pictures and busts and the collections are well worth inspection. The rooms of the Society are daily open to members from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. Strangers may visit the Library and inspect the coins on application to the Secretary. The business of the Society is administered by a Council chosen annually. The monthly meetings are held on the first Wednesday of every month at 6 P.M.

### **Metcalf Hall and Imperial Library.**

It is situated at the junction of Hare Street and Strand Road. The Metcalf Hall was built by public subscription from the entire Indian community to perpetuate the memory of Charles Theophilus, Lord Metcalf, who officiated as Governor-General of India from March 1835 to March 1836, in the interregnum between the departure of Lord William Bentinck and the arrival of Lord Auckland. He was called the "Liberator of the Indian Press" as the emancipation of the press was his greatest act of public life in India. A marble bust of Lord Metcalf stood in the vestibule of the Hall, but after the conversion of the building into the Imperial Library by Lord Curzon, the bust has been removed to the Victoria Memorial Hall collection. The foundation-stone of the building was laid with Masonic rites on December 1840, the Governor-General being present. The building was completed in 1844. The architecture is adapted from the portico of the Temple of Winds at Athens and was designed by Mr. C. K. Robison. The building is raised on a solid and ornamental basement 10 feet high; from this 30 columns 36 feet in height support the general entablature of building in imitation of the style of Greek temples. For want of funds the columns and colonnades could not be carried round the entire building. There is a covered porch with colonnades to the east from which a flight of steps



leads up to the entrance hall. A broad flight of steps also leads to the colonnade to the west on the river front but this is not used. Formerly the Museum and Committee rooms of the Agricultural Society occupied the ground floor, while the Public Library occupied the upper rooms.

Lord Curzon noticed that the Public Library had languished under inadequate support and lax management and that the Agricultural Society had failed to attract public interest, and the building itself was in a state of bad disrepair. He founded the present Imperial Library in 1902 by amalgamating the old Calcutta Public Library with the Government of India Home Department Library which contained many books that formerly belonged to the library of the East India College at Fort William and to the library of the East India Board in London.

“ The Imperial Library Council aim at making the Library one from which or through which any book may be obtained that any one in India may want.”

A selection of English, Persian, Urdu, Hindi autograph letters, old maps of India, pictures and other objects of historical and antiquarian interest form a small *museum* in the hall. For want of suitable rooms they are kept in glass cases in the vestibule or hung on the walls.

*The Bohar Library.*—It consists of a collection of 950 Arabic and Persian manuscripts and one Turkish manuscript and about 1,500 printed books in Arabic, Persian and Urdu. This formed the family library of Munshi Syed Sadaruddin al-Musavi, Zamindar of Bohar, in the District of Burdwan. The library is catalogued and is useful for research purposes.

The Imperial Library is open from 10 A.M. to 7 P.M., and on an average 100 readers utilise the spacious reading rooms daily: admittance to the

private reading rooms is granted only to persons engaged in protracted research work.

### **The Commercial Museum.**

It is situated at No. 1, Council House Street, in the same building which contains the Board of Examiners. The exhibits occupy the first floor and is approached by the southern staircase of the building. The entire collection is of Indian manufacture. It is a recent institution, established in 1916; admittance is free and the Museum is open on week-days from 10-30 A.M. to 5-30 P.M., excepting on Saturdays when it closes at 2-30 P.M.

### **Commercial Library and Reading Room.**

Attached to the Government Commercial Intelligence Department, situated in the same building as the Commercial Museum. It is open from 10-30 A.M. to 5-30 P.M. on week-days and from 10-30 A.M. to 2-30 P.M. on Saturdays. Admission free.

### **The Corporation Buildings.**

The Central Municipal Offices situated in Corporation Street are contained in a building well worthy of the City. The main entrance is through the southern end surmounted by a tower. A broad flight of steps leads to a magnificent Council Chamber, the Committee rooms and the lobbies. There are some fine pictures, statues and busts to be seen here, also a Boer gun captured in the South African campaign and presented to the city in appreciation of the part played by the Indians in the Boer War. The history of the Calcutta Corporation dates from 1727 when it consisted of a Mayor and nine Aldermen who bravely tried to keep down the insanitary conditions of Calcutta. In those days, drainage and conservancy arrangements, even of a most primitive nature, were wanting.

In 1780 Mackintosh states that "the very small portion of cleanliness which it (Calcutta) enjoys is owing to the familiar intercourse of hungry jackals by night, and ravenous vultures,

kites and crows by day. In like manner it is indebted to the smoke raised on public streets in temporary huts and sheds for any respite it enjoys from mosquitoes, the natural productions of supply of Calcutta, *vide* pages 17 to 19.)

Since 1793, the improvement in roads, building, drainage, sanitation and water supply was inaugurated, developed and executed from funds subscribed by lotteries. The Lottery Committee of Calcutta was established for this purpose and received Government authority in 1817, but in spite of the good work done by this institution for public benefit and charities, orthodox opinion in England was against this method of providing funds and the Committee was abolished in 1837.

(For the history of the development of drainage and water supply of Calcutta, *vide* pages 16 to 19.)

The present constitution of the Calcutta Corporation is based on the Bengal Municipal Act, III of 1899. According to this the Corporation consists of a Chairman who is a member of the Indian Civil Service and 50 Commissioners, 25 of whom are elected from the different wards, four by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, four by the Calcutta Trades Association and two by the Port Commissioners and 15 are nominated by the Government of Bengal.

There is a Corporation Club on the premises and a Library which is kept open from 10-30 A.M. to 5 P.M. The revenue income of the Calcutta Corporation during 1919-1920 was Rs. 1,40,90,950 and capital income Rs. 29,30,256, the expenditure on those heads respectively being Rs. 1,51,62,543 and Rs. 25,79,742.

With the inauguration of the "Reforms" the Local Self-Government Department was placed in charge of the veteran leader of the people, the Hon'ble Sir Surendranath Banerjea. One of the epoch-making landmarks of his administration of this Department is the passing of the Calcutta Municipal Bill, in March 1923. The Act will come into force

in 1924. It has thoroughly democratised the Calcutta Corporation. The President of the Municipal Council will be elected and the executive head will no longer be appointed by Government. The representatives of the rate-payers of the city will have the entire management of municipal affairs in their hands. Plural voting has been practically done away with and franchise has been given to female rate-payers and it has been considerably lowered for everyone. The number of commissioners has been increased from 50 to 90, of whom 80 will be elected.

### **Calcutta Port Trust.**

To the west of the General Post Office at the junction of Koilaghat Street and Strand Road are the Head Offices of the Calcutta Port Trust, containing the offices of the Chairman, Chief Engineer, Chief Accountant, Traffic Manager, Deputy Conservator and Harbour Master. The Port Officer and the Port Health Officer are located in the adjoining building to the north. A time ball is dropped from the tower at the south-western corner of the building at 1 P.M. daily.

### **Calcutta Improvement Trust.**

Inaugurated in 1909. Office : 5, Clive Street.

### **The Bengal Chamber of Commerce.**

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce was founded in 1834, when Lord William Bentinck was Governor-General and Thomas Babington Macaulay was Law Member. Little is known of its early days. There are no records earlier than 1851, when it was more or less reconstituted. For very many years it was housed in the Bengal Bonded Warehouse in Clive Street. But in 1893, the then President, Mr. James L. Mackay (now Lord Inchcape), acquired on its behalf the premises of the new Oriental Bank Corporation which was in course of liquidation. These premises stood at the corner of Clive Street and what was then known as Old China

Bazar Street. They were on what is reputed to have been the site of Clive's Government House, and later of the house in which Francis is said to have lived.

The Bank premises were utilised by the Chamber and the Royal Exchange until 1915, when they were demolished and the present Royal Exchange was erected. The establishment of a commercial exchange was mooted in Calcutta as far back as 1857; and in 1881 the organisation of a mercantile exchange was contemplated. But it was not until 1893, when the Bank premises were acquired, that the idea took practical shape. A mercantile exchange—which by special permission of Queen Victoria was styled the Royal Exchange—was then established as a part of the Chamber. The Exchange now consists of 1,016 members, and the Exchange Hall, which is a prominent feature of the new building, is used by members daily as a place of meeting for the transaction of business.

The Chamber itself was incorporated in 1893 as a public company under section 26 of the Indian Companies Act. Prior to that time it had been an unregistered Association of merchants, bankers, etc. It now consists of 240 members and may fairly claim to be thoroughly representative of the European trade, commerce, and manufactures of the city. It is managed by a President, a Vice-President, and a Committee of seven members who are elected annually by the members, and who conduct its business in accordance with the provisions of the Articles of Association. In addition to the work of the Chamber proper as represented by this Committee, there are no fewer than 22 commercial Associations recognised by the Chamber. They are the following:—Indian Tea Association, Calcutta Tea Traders' Association, Indian Jute Mills' Association, Calcutta Baled Jute Association, Calcutta Fire Insurance Agents' Association, Calcutta Marine

Insurance Association, Calcutta Wheat & Seed Trade Association, The Wine, Spirit and Beer Association, Indian Paper Makers' Association, Indian Engineering Association, Calcutta Jute Fabrics Shippers' Association, Calcutta Hydraulic Press Association, Jute Fabric Brokers' Association, Baled Jute Shippers' Association, Calcutta Jute Dealers' Association, Calcutta Hides and Skins Shippers' Association, Northern India Tanners' Federation, Indian Indigo Association, Calcutta Accident Insurance Association, Indian Lac Association for Research. The business of these Associations is transacted by the secretarial staff of the Chamber subject to the direction of Committees and Sub-Committees.

Another important branch of the work of the Chamber is the measuring and weighing of most of the principal commodities exported from Calcutta. For this work, which is done mainly in the course of shipment, the Chamber has a special Department—the Licensed Measurers' Department—which has been in existence for thirty years. It maintains a staff of about 110 measuring officers who measure and weigh goods chiefly in course of shipment. The certificates of the measurements so recorded are used by the steamship companies as the basis upon which to calculate freights charged to exporters; and the certificates of weights are required chiefly by exporters for contract purposes. The number of packages measured during the year ended 30th June 1923, was 6,417,652, and the number of packages weighed was 10,262,892.

There is also in existence in connection with the Chamber a Tribunal of Arbitration for the settlement and adjustment of disputes and differences relating to trade, business, manufactures, etc. The Tribunal consists of the members of the Chamber, and it proceeds in accordance with the provisions of the Indian Arbitration Act, 1889. Its



THE EDEN GARDENS—BURMESE PAGODA AT A DISTANCE.

awards may be filed by either party to any particular dispute in the Calcutta High Court and be made a decree of the Court. The Tribunal transacts a considerable volume of business. In 1920, the number of cases instituted was 1,185, in 1921, the number was as high as 1,824, and in 1922, it dropped to 968.

With the inauguration of the "Reforms" the non-official European community are taking active part in the Public Life of the country. The Hon'ble Sir Alexander Murray, Kt., C.B.E., Member of the Council of State. Sir Robert Watson Smyth, Member of the Bengal Legislative Council, Sir Campbell Rhodes, Kt., C.B.E., Member of the Legislative Assembly are recent past Presidents of the Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber returns six members to the Bengal Legislative Council and the same number of representatives sit on the Calcutta Corporation.

The present President of the Chamber is Mr. W. L. Carey, Member, Bengal Legislative Council. The Secretary of the Chamber is Mr. H. H. Heywood, C.I.E., who is a permanent employee.

## CHAPTER V.

*Eden Gardens: the Strand and the Maidan:  
Memorials and Monuments.*

### **The Eden Gardens.**

The Eden Gardens are situated on the Strand lying directly south of the High Court. They are beautifully laid out and include what was once known as the Respondentia Walk, a tree-shaded avenue, which stretched along the river between Chandpal Ghat and the new Fort and once constituted the fashionable promenade of Calcutta society. Near the High Court entrance stands the statue of George Eden, the second Baron and first Earl of Auckland, during whose Governor-Generalship the



first Afghan War broke out. This most pretty garden and public grounds were laid out by Lord Auckland's sisters, and Hon'ble Misses Eden, famous for their literary and æsthetic attainments. It is for this reason that the Eden Gardens are still called by Indians "Lady Bagan." There is a Burmese Pagoda in the centre, brought from Prome as a war trophy in 1856.

The scene of an evening with the band playing and the beautiful grounds and ornamental waters spangled with electric lights recalls to an imaginative mind the beauties of "the Garden of Eden."

### **Strand Road (South).**

Between the High Court and the Hastings landing stage, the Strand constitutes a fashionable place for Calcutta society to drive in motor-cars and open conveyances, enjoying the cool river breeze of an afternoon or listening to the band at the Eden Gardens.

There are a few places of interest in this length of the road.

Immediately to the west of the High Court is *Chandpal Ghat*. It is the favourite station for going on river trips by Port Commissioners' ferry steamer service or by private steam launches and boats. There is a good waiting room fitted with electric lights and fans. This ghat was the official landing stage where Members of Council, Governors-General, Commanders-in-Chief, Judges of the Supreme Court and of the High Court and Bishops alighted in India or departed for Europe under the boom of saluting guns from the ramparts of Fort William.

Now the departing and arriving Potentates, Viceroys, Governors and other notables, alight at the Howrah Railway Station and enter Calcutta *viâ* the Howrah Bridge, or they cross the river by a steamer and alight in state at Prinsep's Ghat, as was done when King George V visited Calcutta in 1906 and 1912.

Chandpal Ghat is mentioned as forming the southern boundary of "Dhee Calcutta" in 1774 and is named after Chandranath Pal, better known as Chand Pal, *modi* (grocer), who sold coarse refreshments to pedestrians and boatmen. In those days the surrounding country was uninhabited and full of jungle.

It has been truly said: "Upon what trifles do the momentous affairs of mankind appear to hang." While alighting at Chandpal Ghat, Philip Francis and his colleagues, Generals Clavering and Monson, are said to have counted 17 guns fired in their honour whereas they had expected 19. They never forgave the Governor Warren Hastings for this apparently deliberate slight. This incident seems to be at the bottom of that rancour and hatred between Warren Hastings and Francis and their perpetual differences in the Council which did not abate with their memorable duel but found an echo in the solemn trial in Westminster Hall.\*

It was while landing at Chandpal Ghat with the Judges of the Supreme Court that Sir Elijah Impey is said to have looked at the crowd of Indian spectators with their bare feet and uncovered bodies and exclaimed to his colleagues:

"See, brothers, the wretched victims of tyranny. The Crown Court was not surely established one day before it was needed. I trust it will not have been in operation for six months before we shall see all these poor creatures comfortably clothed in shoes and stockings."

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\* Phillip Francis with General Sir John Clavering and Colonel George Manson formed a party to obstruct Warren Hastings in his Council. With only Richard Barwell on his side the Governor-General found his position very difficult. Phillip Francis out of personal malice not only opposed even good and sound measures brought forward by Warren Hastings but instigated and engineered attacks on him. Among others Raja Nand Kumar was made to bring up a charge that Warren Hastings has received nearly four lakhs of rupees from Mani Begum of Murshidabad and a large sum of money from his son Gurudas for their appointment in Murshidabad.

Opposite Chandpal Ghat are the Calcutta swimming baths and the premises of the Volunteer Headquarters.

*Baboo Ghat.*—A little to the south of the High Court opposite Auckland Road, on the riverside, is a *pucca* ghat with Doric pillars. It is called Baboo Ghat after Baboo Rajchandra Das, the husband of the celebrated Rani Rashmani, whose residence can be seen at Jan Bazar, now called Corporation Street. It is used as a bathing ghat by respectable Indian gentlemen.

Opposite the Eden Gardens is *Outram Ghat* which is a landing stage for passengers to and from England. The clock tower over it is a distinctive feature and on the upper storey of the pontoon there is a fine tea-house where light refreshments are served at very reasonable rates. The boat house of the Calcutta Rowing Club lies a little higher, immediately to the north of this ghat. Further north is the *Dharamsala* for Indian deck passengers for sea-going vessels.

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Hastings refused to meet these charges in the Council and brought an action against Nand Kumar for conspiring with his enemies.

The charge was admitted and Nand Kumar was released on bail. He was arrested about six weeks later on a charge of forgery and committed to be tried by the Supreme Court and to be kept a prisoner in the Presidency Jail. Sir Elijah Impey, the Chief Justice, tried Nand Kumar and condemned him to be hanged. (1775.)

The opponents of Hastings were thus disgraced, and he had peace in his Council. Indeed after the death of Monson, Warren Hastings with his casting vote commanded the majority and Francis had to eat humble pie and return to England after the famous duel (*vide* page 132).

Although the execution of Nand Kumar struck terror in the hearts of mischief-makers against Hastings but it was an ill-advised act, as it produced a very bad feeling in the country. It is said, suppressed shouts of curses against the Company's rule were heard even among the crowd who witnessed the horrifying sight from the exposed gallows. The Brahmins turned terror-stricken towards the Ganges shouting *Báp-re-Báp* (Father save us) and plunged into the sacred stream to perform the bath of purification after witnessing such a sacrilegious sight.

*The Gwalior Monument* on the Strand is situated to the north-west of Prinsep's Ghat opposite Fort William. It is a kiosk built of brick, faced with Jaipur marble, surmounted by a metal dome and columns, made by melting the captured guns of the Gwalior campaign of Sir Hugh Gough. It was erected by the Earl of Ellenborough in 1847. The height is 58 feet 6 inches. In the centre of the upper storey is a sarcophagus on which are inscribed the names of officers, and men who fell in the campaign. The cupola has acquired a pretty greenish tint from age and exposure to the atmosphere.

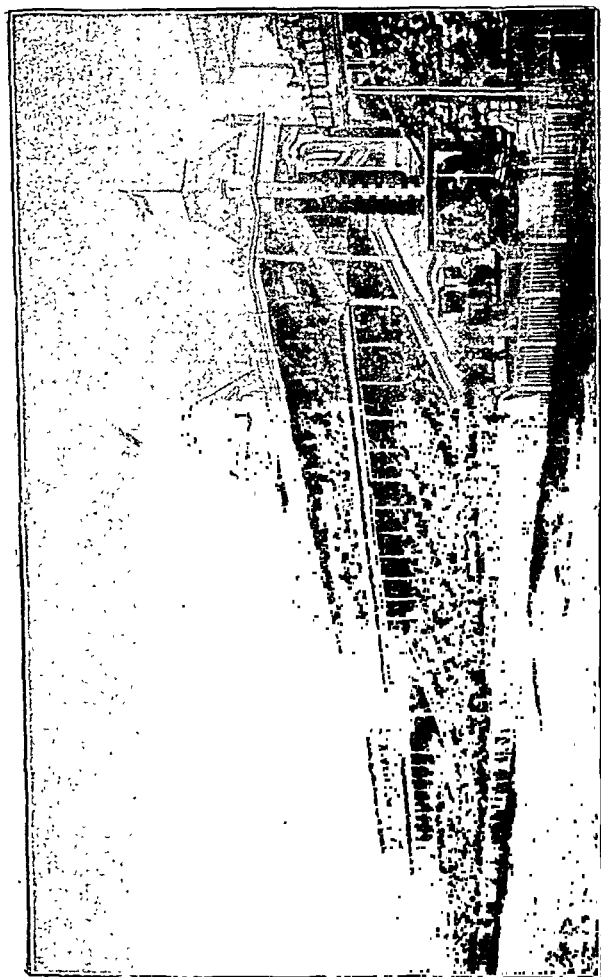
*The Prinsep's Ghat* is a conspicuous structure with handsome Ionic pillars near the southern end of Strand Road. The river once flowed under it, and the pair of lions seen on either side, guarded the top of a magnificent flight of steps running up from the river. This Ghat superseded Chandpal Ghat as a state landing stage. King Edward the VII landed here when he visited Calcutta in 1875 as the Prince of Wales. The present King-Emperor also landed here in state both on the occasion of his visit as Prince of Wales in 1906 and as King-Emperor in 1912. The ill-fated Emperor Nicholas of Russia when he visited Calcutta as Czarvitch in January 1891 also landed here. James Prinsep, after whom the Ghat is named, was the Assay Master of the Calcutta Mint and the founder of the science of Indian Numismatics. He died at the comparatively early age of 40 and this Ghat was erected by the citizens of Calcutta to perpetuate his memory.

About a quarter of a mile south of Prinsep's Ghat is the *Lascars' War Memorial*. A fine tribute to the devotion and valour of the seamen from Bengal who lost their lives during the Great War. Sir John Cumming, K.C.I.E., the member in charge of the Commerce and Marine Department of the Government of Bengal, took a personal interest in organising this beautiful memorial and it has given much satisfaction to the sea-faring community, most of whom are Muslims.

## The Maidan.

The Maidan is a distinctive feature of Calcutta and is an open space of about two miles long and three-fourths of a mile in breadth at the north where it is narrowest, to about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles broad at its southern and widest end. It lies in the bosom of the city surrounding the fort (*killa*) as if it were in the hollow centre of a crescent. The river Hooghly forms its western boundary and the famous Chowringhee Road skirts its eastern extremity. From the Curzon Gardens in Esplanade East one can drive *viâ* the Red Road, the Casuarina Avenue and the Hospital Road right through the centre of the Maidan up to the gates of the Presidency General Hospital. There are other handsome avenues across the Maidan and the green wide expanse itself is studded over with fine shady groves, trees and tanks which keep the air cool and refreshing. A drive through this green open space is most pleasing to the eye and soothing to the mind. Colonel Henry Watson, the Engineer of Bengal, laid out most of the roads including the beautiful Red Road and the Secretary's Walk alongside of it. Old Court House Street and the Esplanade were also built by him. He is remembered as the Engineer who supervised the final stages of the construction of Fort William and for having acted as the second of Francis in his duel with Warren Hastings.

The Maidan is largely used as a recreation ground. The principal Football, Tennis and Cricket Clubs of Calcutta have been allotted temporary sites by the military authorities. There are Golf Links, one for ladies and another for gentlemen, belonging to the Royal Calcutta Golf Club and also a Bowling Green. The Maidan is also dotted over with the statues of Viceroys, Commanders-in-Chief and other notables. The statues of Lord Curzon, Lord Kitchener and Lord Ripon are conspicuous additions of recent years. The *Calcutta Cenotaph* in memory



THE GRAND STAND, RACE COURSE (CALCUTTA MAIDAN).

of " the glorious dead " who fell during the Great War is also a new addition and is placed at the head of the Red Road, south-east of Lawrence statue facing Ochterlony Monument and the Curzon Gardens.

I cannot do better than quote at length the following glowing description from the powerful pen of Mr. H. E. A. Cotton in his " Calcutta Old and New " :

" Calcutta is proud of her statues and her monuments. Whatever may be the faults imputed to her inhabitants by critics, it cannot, at any rate, be laid to their charge that they have neglected to do honour to those whom honour is due. There is probably no city in the Empire so plentifully adorned with statues of public men erected by subscription. Outram, the Bayard of the East; Mayo, struck down in the midst of a beneficent and patriotic career; Hardinge, the hero of Albuera and victor of Moodkee, Ferozeshuhur, and Sobraon; Bentinck, the wise, upright and paternal administrator; William Peel, the ' hardy man ' of the Sepoy Mutiny; ' Clemency ' Canning; Napier of Magdala; Roberts of Kandahar and Pretoria; Dufferin, the courtly and accomplished; John Lawrence, the assistant magistrate, who rose to be Viceroy—the memory of these and many others is for ever kept green by a grateful people upon the wide expanse of Calcutta's historic Maidan. Others again there are whose effigies in marble and bronze do not greet our eye as we dash past of an evening in our victorias and our buggies. Warren Hastings, the first Governor-General of Bengal, and Cornwallis, the author of the Permanent Settlement and conqueror of Tipu Sultan, stand within the precincts of the Town Hall. Chantrey's masterly statue of the Marquis of Hastings adorns the portico of the Dalhousie Institute, and hard by is the marble presentment of James Wilson, the Finance Minister, who died while doing his duty. A brave list in truth and yet surely not without its notable omissions.

There is more than one maker of history for whom we seem to look in vain. Wellesley, that king of men, is no longer enshrined in the Government House which owes its existence to him and which is so apt a symbol of the empire he created. The Marquis of Dalhousie, the greatest of modern Governors-General, as Lord Curzon has fitly characterised him, now occupies no place of honour in the Institute which bears his name. Calcutta, nevertheless, has not forgotten them. In the course of a few years, these memorials of the illustrious dead will find a fit resting place in the Victoria Memorial Hall, the 'Twentieth Century Taj,' which will rear its graceful head upon the spot made hideous by the Presidency Jail. For the present they must be sought in their temporary home. Nor is the situation unworthy of them. For they stand upon either side of the young Queen whom the one was proud to serve and the other lived to greet, while surrounding them are the effigies of Neill and Havelock and Nicholson and Outram, and heroes of peace such as Rennell and Metcalfe."

### Ochterlony Monument.

This is a masonry column situated at the north end of the Maidan, south of Curzon Gardens, at the Esplanade, and is provided with a flight of winding steps inside. It is 165 feet high and is covered by a cupola of Saracenic style. It was built in 1823 in honour of Sir David Ochterlony who brought the Nepal War of 1814—1816 to a successful termination. From the top of this Monument a beautiful view of Calcutta can be obtained. The public are allowed to visit it and can obtain the keys from the Police Headquarters at 18, Lall Bazar.

General Ochterlony is popularly known in Delhi as Akhterloney Sahib. He married a Muhammadan woman of the *Moghlani* class who is known as "Akhterloney Sahib ki Begum" as she got the status of a lady of rank being a General's wife. In mahalla

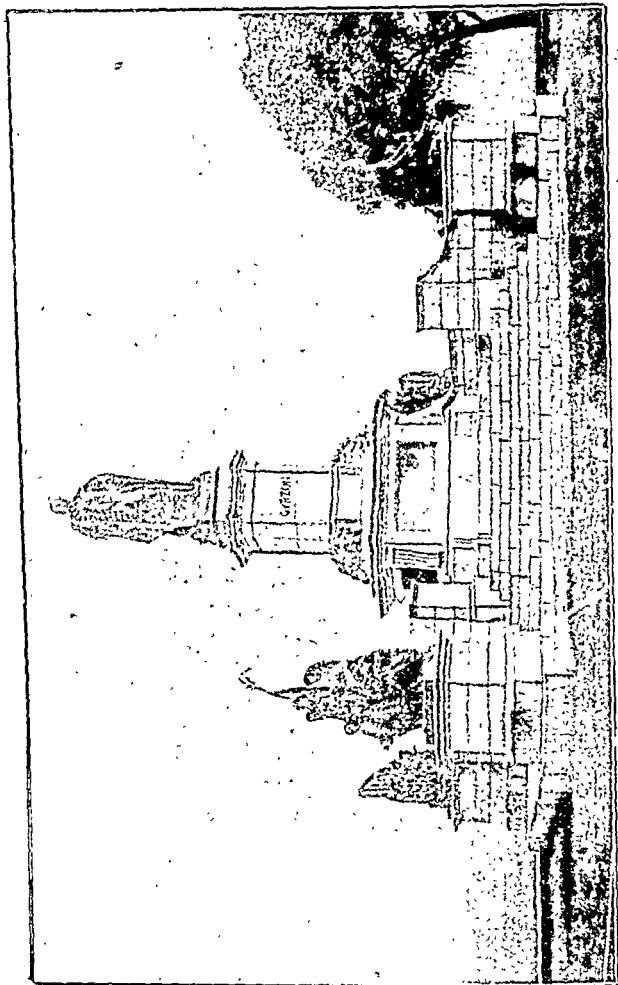


Hauz Kazi, near the police-station of that name in Delhi, is a beautiful red stone mosque built by Akhter-loney Begum. It is said no public congregation is held in this mosque as the orthodox Muslims raised the objection that as the marriage of the Muslim lady with her Christian husband was illegal, the money which she got from her husband could not be utilised for such a sacred work and endowment. This apparently unreasonable attitude accounts for this beautiful mosque, situated in the heart of a Muslim locality, remaining deserted and unused. It is however kept in good repair from the income of its endowments.

### Curzon Statue.

Facing the north or the main entrance of the Victoria Memorial Hall, but outside the compound and right in the middle of the spacious public road called "Queen's Way," is a stately bronze statue of Lord Curzon. He is seen dressed in the robes of a Peer, standing high upon a magnificent pedestal, which is decorated with embossed representations of different important events in his administration. On the large sheets of bronze let into the four sides of the pedestal can be seen the Delhi Durbar Assembly, a squad of the Imperial Cadet Corps, the Victoria Memorial Hall, and the Tajmahal of Agra, the last, doubtless, referring to his scheme of restoration of ancient monuments, while carved out of white stone are four gun carriages resting at the four corners on the top of the pedestal. On the guns are bunches of lotus lilies, the emblem of India, and of Saraswati, the goddess of learning, referring probably to the re-organising of university education and revival of oriental learning.

The pedestal is placed in the centre of a raised platform of grey stone, which is ascended by a flight of eight steps. At the four corners of the platform are seen allegorical figures representing Peace, Commerce, Famine Relief and Agriculture.



THE STATUE OF LORD CURZON, QUEEN'S WAY, CALCUTTA MAIDAN.

The great Viceroy is seen looking toward the superb memorial which he had planned and had long before seen in his mind's eye raising up its graceful head adorning the famous Maidan of the Premier City of the Indian Empire. Surrounded by the green expanse the white pile with its well proportioned dome appears so impressive from a distance, specially when seen with the beautiful daybreak or, the glamour of a setting sun in an oriental sky as a background, that often one is reminded of the words of the Persian poet :

چنان نادر افتاده در روضه  
که در لاجور دی طبق بیضه

“ So exquisite it appeared surrounded by an extensive garden, that it seemed as if a pure white egg has been placed on the azure-tray ” (Sky).

### Victoria Memorial.

The idea of building this superb edifice in memory of the great Queen-Empress, was thought of by Lord Curzon in 1901. The palatial white building is surmounted by a lofty central dome, and has small kiosk-like turrets with graceful minarets situated at the four corners. The building is situated in a beautiful garden interspersed with ornamental waters. This edifice is the *Taj Mahal* of the British. It is built in pure white marble. The design was completed by Sir William Emerson in 1903. Messrs. Martin & Co. of Calcutta are the builders. It took 15 years to complete. The estimated cost of sixty lakhs of rupees was raised entirely by public subscription. The building occupies the site of the old Presidency Jail noted as the prison where Raja Nanda Kumar was confined.\*

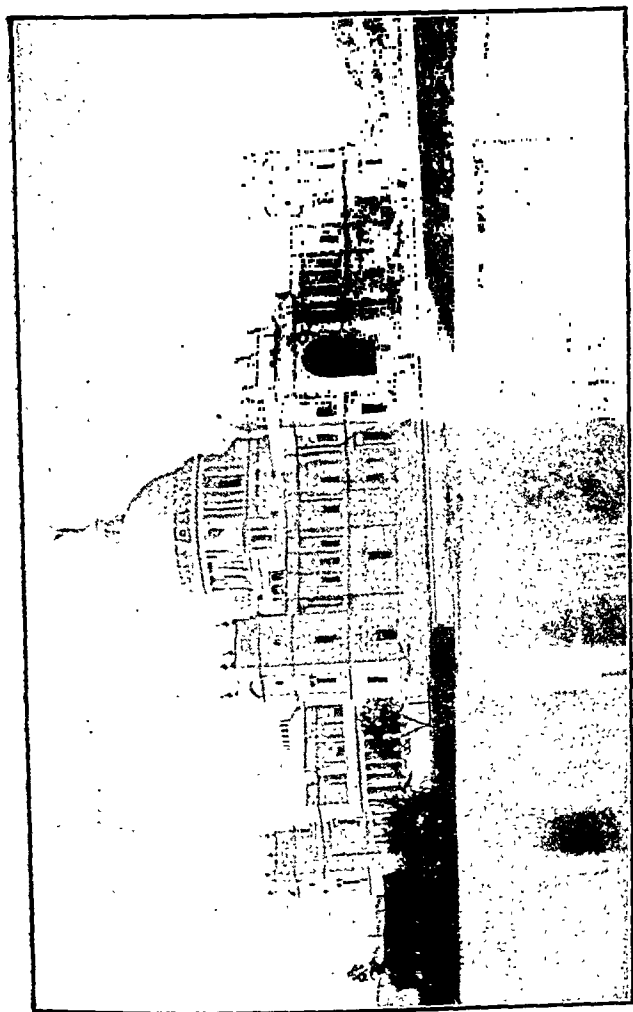
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\* The house now occupied by the Free School in Free School Street was the residence of Mr. Justice Le Maistre who committed Nanda Kumar for trial on a charge of forgery and ordered him to be confined in the Presidency Jail.

The grounds and the surroundings are most tastefully laid out. The Victoria Memorial Collection has been housed in this building, and is a national museum of great historical interest. The foundation-stone was laid in 1906, when King George V visited India as Prince of Wales. His Majesty inspected the progress of the building operations during his visit to Calcutta in 1912. The Victoria Memorial Hall was opened in State by H. R. H. the present Prince of Wales in January 1922. The main entrance is to the north. Inside the garden immediately in front of the steps leading to the north entrance and facing Queen's Way is a majestic bronze statue of Queen Victoria, seated on a throne. The south gate has a lofty white marble arch surmounted by a fine equestrian statue of the late King Edward VII in a Field-Marshal's uniform. It was unveiled by H. R. H. The Duke of Connaught, in front of the steps of the south entrance of the on 29th January 1921. Within the garden and just in front of the steps of the south entrance of the building is a handsome statue of Lord Curzon, in spotless white marble. The three sides of the carved marble pedestal of the statue illustrate some important event of his administration. In front he is shown receiving the chieftains of the North-Western Frontier Provinces who are paying their allegiance to the British Crown. On the east face he is inspecting the work of restoration of ancient monuments; on the west he is shown encouraging the promotion and development of indigenous industries and extending railway communications. The open grounds south of the Memorial buildings will be remembered as having been used as an Aerodrome for the Italian aeroplanes during the famous Rome to Tokio flight in the Spring of 1920.

### **Race Course.**

The Race Course in Calcutta is a famous institution and is about two miles long. It lies to



VICTORIA MEMORIAL.

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## CHAPTER VI.

### *Dalhousie Square and Other Places of Historic Interest Near It.*

#### **Dalhousie Square.**

This is the most important part of Calcutta, with all the Government and commercial offices round it. It has also the greatest historical association for the British. Its old name was "the tank square in the middle of the city" and an older name "the Green before the Fort." It was a place of recreation for the Company's factors who amused themselves on the banks of the fish-pond situated in the middle of the square. "It was dug," says the Dutch Admiral Stavorinus who visited the Settlement in 1770, "in order to provide the inhabitants of Calcutta with water, which is very sweet and pleasant." It has always been reputed to possess the sweetest water in Calcutta and until the introduction of filtered water-supply, was the chief source of drinking water for the European community.

The old Fort William and the Factory House of the East India Company occupied the whole of the western side of the Square.

Dalhousie Square is named after Lord Dalhousie who was Governor-General of India just before the outbreak of the Sepoy Mutiny. It is one of the prettiest open spaces in the city. The green lawn is interspersed with well-laid-out flower beds with

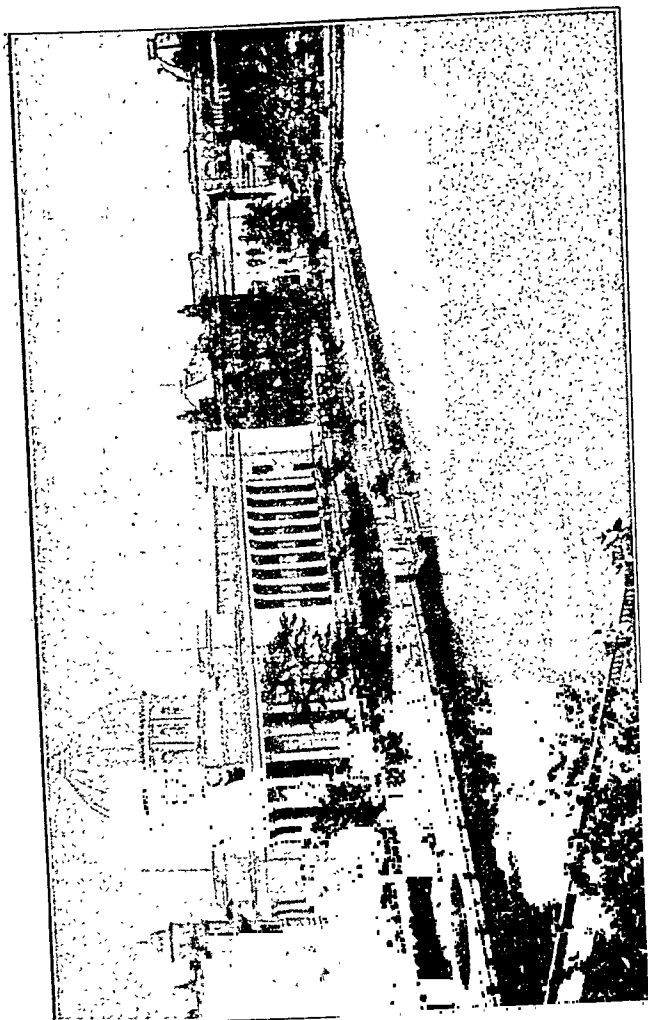
fountains playing at each corner. The turf on the slopes round the tank gently sweeps down to the edge of the sparkling lake the level of which is always kept high, by means of feeder pipes from the river. The Square was renovated and improved by Lord Curzon.

At the north entrance of the Square is a fine equestrian statue of Sir John Woodburn, who died in Calcutta in 1902; on the north-west corner is the white marble statue in a seated posture of Sir Ashley Eden. At the north-east corner is the statue of Sir Stewart Bayley; on the east side is that of Sir Andrew Fraser; all late Lieutenant-Governors of Bengal. At the south-west corner is a statue of the late Maharajah Sir Luchmissur Singh Bahadur, G.C.I.E., of Darbhanga.

Outside the Square enclosure on the east side in Old Court House Street is the memorial obelisk of Colesworthey Grant, the founder of the Calcutta Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, in the year 1861.

### **General Post Office.**

The General Post Office of Calcutta is one of the most handsome buildings in the City. It stands on the west side of Dalhousie Square, and covers a part of the site of the old Fort William. This graceful domed building with its tall Corinthian pillars and semi-circular verandah and beautiful flight of steps is the work of the same architect who designed Government House, namely, Mr. Walter B. Granville, architect to the Government of India. It is one of the most conspicuous landmarks in Calcutta and has a large clock with three illuminated dials. The foundation-stone was laid in 1864, and it was opened to the public in the year 1868. The removal of the foundations of the old Fort William was very difficult and could only be effected by blasting operations as the Muhammadan masons.



THE GENERAL POST OFFICE.



used very thin bricks laid with a composition of *Soorkhi* or brick dust, lime, molasses, hemp and a mixture of decomposed animal and vegetable substances in their mortar, which, when set, became harder than stone. This was called the *Pucca* or *Rekhta Work*, and never needed the care of a P. W. Department.

At the north-east corner of the compound of the General Post Office is the site of the *Black Hole*. The following inscriptions on tablets on the walls *Rekhta Work*, and never needed the periodical care of a P. W. Department.

“Behind the gateway immediately adjoining this spot is the site of the *Black Hole* prison in Old Fort William.”

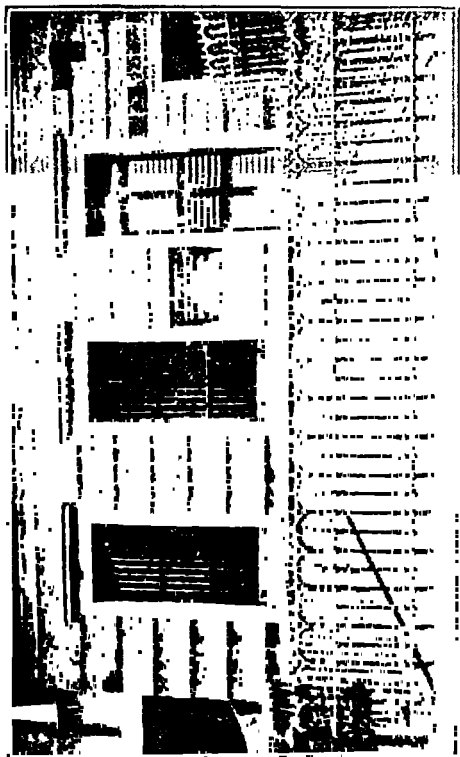
“The marble pavement below this spot was placed here by Lord Curzon, Viceroy and Governor-General of India in 1901, to mark the site of the prison in Old Fort William known as the *Black Hole* in which 146 British inhabitants of Calcutta were confined on the night of the 20th June 1756, and from which only 23 came out alive. This pavement marks the exact breadth of the prison 14 feet 10 inches, but not its full length 18 feet, about the third of the area at the north end being covered by the building on which this tablet is fixed.”

### **Black Hole.**

At the north-east corner of the General Post Office compound is a railed-off enclosure with a tablet indicating the actual site of the *Black Hole* of 1756. Lord Curzon got the place paved with black marble.

The *Black Hole* was the name of the small military prison of the Old Fort William. It measured about 18 feet by 14 feet at the floor and was about 18 feet high. Some say it was 18 feet square. It is said that on the night of the 20th June, 146 survivors of the garrison that defended Fort William against the Nawab of Bengal were confined in this dungeon. The horrors and sufferings of the victims crushed together and maddened with thirst and heat might be better imagined than described. The guards endeavoured to force some

water through the iron bars, but in the scramble that ensued many were trampled to death. When the doors were opened the next morning there were only 23 who survived this agony and trial.



BLACK HOLE.

In fairness to Siraj-ud-Dowla it must be mentioned that he had simply ordered his officers to carefully guard the prisoners for the night and had retired to rest. He was not responsible for the details of the tragedy. Holwell is his "Narrative of the Experiences of the Black Hole" mentions that their incarceration in the Black Hole was "the

result or revenge and resentment in the breasts of the lower officers or Jemadars, to whose custody the prisoners were delivered, for the number of their order killed during the siege."

After a critical examination of facts, the Black Hole tragedy has been said to be a myth and literature on the subject has grown of recent years. One however feels inclined to believe that while the details are certainly open to grave doubts, and are most probably wrong, the story of the Black Hole cannot altogether be a myth as undoubtedly there was a military prison in the fort of that name which must have been naturally utilised to confine at least a certain number of prisoners, if not all of them.

There is no doubt that it is a physical impossibility to accommodate 143 persons of ordinary size in a space 18 feet by 15 feet even if they were laid one on top of another. That there was space for people to move about is certain, and is proved by Holwell's statement that "Mr. Edward Eyre, a Member of the Council, came staggering over the dead to him (Holwell) and asked him good-naturedly how he did and expired before he received the reply." "Holwell himself, determined to die apart from the struggle at the windows made his way back from the throng assisted by the strength of a ship's officer named Carey whose girl wife shared his prison and survived him after that night of horrors."

"Captain Mills (now Captain of the Company's Yacht) who was in possession of a seat in the window had the humanity to resign it, although life was equally dear to every man and the stench arising from the dead bodies was grown intolerable."

The above quotations not only show that there was sufficient room to allow one to walk to and from the windows, but the story of the stench arising from the bodies so soon after death shows an exaggeration which could only be believed by the English people

at "Home" who were not familiar with the actual rate of decomposition of the cadaver in the tropical heat of India.

Exaggeration of a feeling of resentment against an enemy is not an unnatural failing, especially when recruits and help are needed for warfare. It is a useful weapon to stir up the dormant feelings specially of those who have not been actually touched and feel no inclination to rouse themselves and avenge a wrong. The student of history has however to approach facts and sift them carefully with an unbiased mind and then try to arrive at conclusions.

In Lord Curzon's list thirty more names were added to those that Holwell originally recorded.

"This list includes not only the names of those who are known to have been killed or to have died in this room during the siege but also of those who either did not survive to enter the prison or afterwards succumbed to its effects."

Similarly Holwell's original list is also very likely to include the dead from all sources.

From an analysis of all these facts it appears very probable that amongst the dead thrown into the ditch of the ravelin on June 21st 1756, were included not only the bodies of those who died within the Black Hole prison but also of those who were found dead in other parts of the fort and the barracks. Indeed from the evidence before us it seems unlikely that the incident as handed down to us for the purpose of rousing our historical ire could ever have taken place.

### **Holwell Monument.**

At the north-western corner of Dalhousie Square, at the junction of Charnock Place and Clive Street, stands the Holwell Memorial Obelisk. It is a white marble replica of the original brick and plaster monument erected over the grave of the victims of the Black Hole tragedy. John Zephania

Holwell, leader of the garrison that defended the fort after Roger Drake had disgracefully deserted it, and one of the few survivors of the tragedy, had built the original monument to mark the site of the ditch of the unfinished ravelin outside the eastern curtain of the fort into which the bodies of the victims were thrown on June 21st 1756. This fell into disrepair and is said to have been struck by lightning when the unsightly remains were removed in 1821 under the orders of the Marquis of Hastings.

It is said that the Governor-General thought that this monument was undesirable as likely to wound the feelings of Indians and Europeans alike, and recall the memories of a disaster of a controversial nature to no purpose. Looking at the inscriptions one would think that the removal of the obelisk was expedient.

The original inscription ran as follows :—

“ This horrid act of violence was as amply as deservedly revenged on Siraj-ud-Dowla by His Majesty's Arms under the conduct of Vice-Admiral Watson and Colonel Clive in 1757.”

The words confirmed the tradition that horrible acts of retaliation and revenge were performed by Watson and Clive.

Lord Macaulay says :—

“ This crime memorable for its singular atrocity, is memorable for the tremendous retribution by which it was followed.

Lord Curzon made material alterations in the original inscription of Holwell on the memorial obelisk put up by him. The bitter reference to the personal responsibility of Siraj-ud-Dowla was not in the opinion of Lord Curzon justified by the fuller knowledge of the facts.

For some time a lamp-post marked the place where the monument stood and then the statue of Sir Ashley Eden, Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, was placed over the spot.

The statue was removed to Dalhousie Square by Lord Curzon who presented the city with the present obelisk which he placed over its original site. It was unveiled by him on 19th December 1902.

To the west of the obelisk, on the walls of the Calcutta Collectorate, is a tablet with the following inscription :—

“ Sixteen feet behind this wall was the entrance of the east gate of Old Fort William through which the bodies of those who perished in the Black Hole were brought and thrown into the ditch of the Ravelin on the 21st June 1756.”

### **Custom House.**

The Custom House is situated between the Calcutta Collectorate in Charnock Place and the East Indian Railway House in Clive Street. It occupies portions of the Old Fort William within which the first Custom House found its habitation. The foundation of the present building was laid on the 9th February 1819 by Lord Hastings. The walls of the building bear marble tablets with inscriptions indicating the limits and position of the “ Factory House ” and other parts of the Fort. The pavement is marked with brass lines like those on the floor of the General Post Office and East Indian Railway House.

The tablets have the following inscriptions :—

“ To the west of this tablet extended the range of buildings called the ‘ Long Row ’ which contained the lodgings of Company’s writers and divided the old Fort into two sections.

The brass lines in the stone on the adjacent ground mark the position and extent of the construction of the west curtain of Old Fort William near where it was met by the Long Row.

The brass lines in the stone on the adjacent ground mark the position and extent of a portion of the north wall of the Factory, the principal building in the centre of Old Fort William.”

### **East Indian Railway House.**

The East Indian Railway House is situated to the north of the Custom House. It provides

accommodation for the Agent's offices and also contains the offices of the Chief Engineer, the Chief Auditor, the General Traffic Manager and the Controller of Stores, and the chief officers of the East Indian Railway Company and also the E. I. Ry. Press. The site occupies the northern limit of Fort William and the Water Gate. Brass lines in the courtyard indicate the position and a marble wall-tablet in the central quadrangle of the building has the following inscription :—

“ The brass lines in the stone on the adjacent ground mark the position of the west curtain of Old Fort William.

“ This tablet marks the position of the North River Gate through which Seraj-ud-Dowla entered the Fort on the evening of the 20th June 1756.

“ Behind this tablet to the south of the gate stood the great flagstaff of the Fort.”

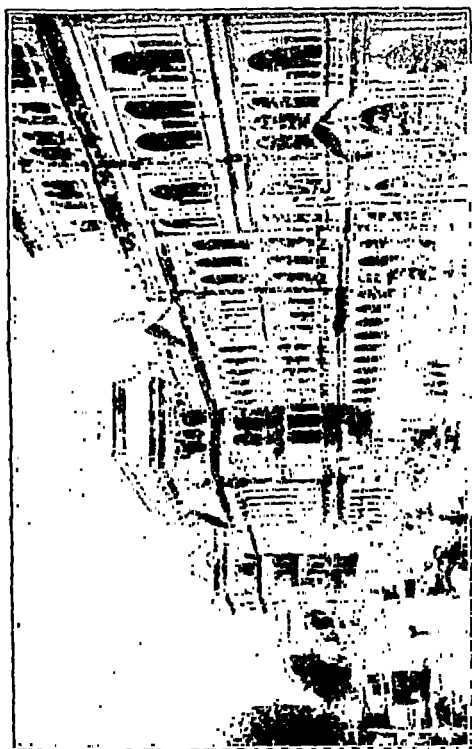
On the north wall of the building facing Fairlie Place is a tablet with the following inscription :—

“ The brass lines on the adjacent ground mark the position and size of part of the north-west bastion of old Fort William.”

### **Writers' Buildings.**

The Writers' Buildings is one of the oldest edifices in Calcutta. The offices of the Bengal Secretariat are located in this great three-storied pile of buildings. It fills the whole northern side of Dalhousie Square, from St. Andrew's Church to the Holwell Monument. The name “ Writers' Buildings,” popularly known as Company Barracks, is derived from the fact that the East Indian Company's junior employees, called “ writers,” were provided with free quarters in these buildings. There were 19 sets of such apartments which were allotted to those writers whose pay was less than Rs. 300 per month. In those days these young men lived a most careless life, and Writers' Buildings had acquired a fame for fast living and lavish orgies,

hardly to be beaten by any chummery of modern Commercial Calcutta. Subsequent to the withdrawal of the privilege of providing free quarters to the writers, these buildings were used as offices by merchants and private individuals, till Sir Ashley Eden, Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, transferred



WRITERS' BUILDINGS.

the Bengal Secretariat to it. A handsome new frontage was built and extensive new blocks added at the back of the buildings towards Lyon's Range.

The frontage is adorned by a row of classical columns and above the façade over the central entrance is seen a statue of Britannia and the Royal



Arms; and from west to east there are allegorical figures of Science, Agriculture, Commerce and Justice. That portion of Writers' Buildings which up till 1908 contained the Bengal Legislative Council Chamber, is on the site which was once occupied by St. Anne's Church which got destroyed by fire during storming of the fort by Siraj-ud-Dowla's army.

### *I.C.S. War Memorial.*

Occupying the south end of the corridor over the central porch of the Bengal Secretariat is a memorial obelisk of white marble with the names of the members of the Indian Civil Service from Bengal, who fell in action during the world-war 1914—18. The memorial has been put up by their comrades of the service in the province and was unveiled by H. E. Lord Ronaldshay in 1921.

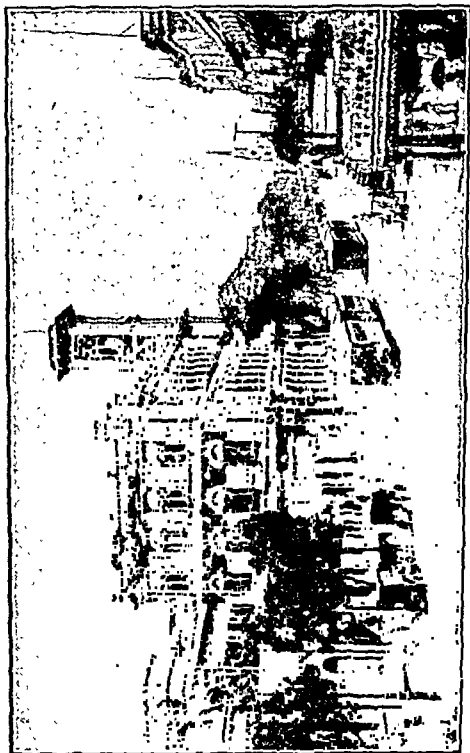
### **Dalhousie Institute.**

This building occupies the centre of the south side of Dalhousie Square, exactly opposite Wellesley Place leading to the north gate of Government House. It was erected "as a monumental edifice to contain within its walls statues and busts of great men."

The Dalhousie Testimonial Fund and the funds raised to commemorate the heroic deeds of the distinguished men of the Mutiny in 1857, supplemented by public subscription to the extent of Rs. 30,000 were appropriated for its erection. The hall is available for lectures, concerts, dances and other entertainments. It also contains a library, reading-room and a billiard-room. The hall is of handsome design—90 feet by 45 feet—with a raised platform at one end. The walls are lined with marble with a semi-circular roof richly decorated. The Institute building was tacked on to the entrance portico which is much older and was erected in or about 1824. The foundation of the Institute was

laid on the 4th March 1855 with Masonic rights in the presence of Sir Cecil Beadon, the then Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal.

There is a fine statue of the Marquis of Hastings at the entrance portico, but a large number of busts and portraits have been removed to the Victoria Memorial Hall.



OLD COURT HOUSE STREET SHOWING CENTRAL TELEGRAPH OFFICE :  
ST. ANDREWS CHURCH AT A DISTANCE.

### The Central Telegraph Office.

It is a conspicuous red building situated at the corner of Old Court House Street and Dalhousie Square South. The building stands upon a high plinth, about 4 feet 6 inches high, with three wings,

one facing Old Court House Street while the other two form the centre and west wings. The total height of the building is 62 feet above the plinth, and the tower, which is of the shape of an Italian Campanile, is 120 feet high.

The central entrance is of handsome design with well-proportioned columns and cornices beautifully decorated. On the right hand wall of the public vestibule is a memorial tablet erected in commemoration of the victims of the Manipur rising of 1891, in which the Chief Commissioner, a Telegraph Superintendent and his staff were killed. The original design of the building was made in 1868 and the ground cleared in 1870, but the building was not commenced till 1873.

### **Currency Office.**

It is an imposing edifice in Old Court House Street to the south-east of Dalhousie Square, built in the Italian style of architecture with a wrought-iron gate of florid design. It was originally built for the Agra and Masterman's Bank, but on the collapse of that institution it was sold to Government and utilised for its present purpose. The central hall is lighted by skylights surrounding three large domes and contains the exchange counters for notes, gold, silver and small coinage. The mint forwards the coin to the Currency Office—the bulk of the silver is sent from here to Fort William to be kept in a strong vault. In the Currency Office also is a vault of massive masonry, the walls and floors of which are lined with iron and which has an iron door 6 inches in thickness, further protected by a second iron door and last of all by massive iron gratings. In this "strong room" a working reserve of the current coins of the realm are kept.

### **Mission Row.**

Mission Row, now a business quarter, was formerly known as the *Rope Walk*, and formed the

eastern boundary of *Lál Dighi* or the great tank in Dalhousie Square which kept the temperature of the Walk cool and refreshing. Like the Secretary's Walk, it formed a famous promenade for over-worked and old Civilians. The Rope Walk derived its name from the fact that none excepting high European officials were allowed to walk within the rope enclosure. Opposite the Old Mission Church in this road is a tablet in the wall of a house indicating that it was the house of General George Manson, one of the members of the Council of Warren Hastings. In the same road to the south of the Church is another tablet over the house of another member of the Council, General Sir John Clavering.

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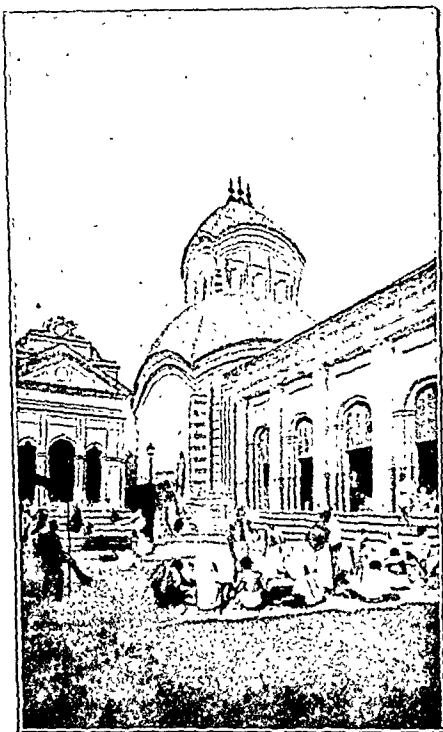
## CHAPTER VII.

### *Some Old and Interesting Places of Worship.*

#### **Kalighat.**

A visit to Kalighat must not be omitted. This is the shrine of the patron goddess of Calcutta and is visited from the misty days of tradition by thousands of pilgrims all over the country. The sanctity of Kalikshetra dates back of pre-historic times and is said to be due to the fact that pieces of the toe of the right foot of Kali or Sati, the wife of Siva, severed by the Chakra of Vishnu, fell on the site on which the shrine now stands. It is narrated that Daksha, the father of Sati, does not invite his son-in-law Mahadeb or Shiva to a great sacrificial banquet in his house. Sati is indignant as all the gods excepting her master are present; Daksha not only does not give any explanation for the apparent slight but hurts the feeling of his daughter by referring to Mahadeb in insulting terms. Sati is cut to the quick and commits suicide. Mahadeb learns of this and immediately arrives on

the scene and picks up the dead body of his wife and dances madly about threatening destruction to the whole world. The Hindus like the ancient Greeks believe in a triad, Brahma the Creator, Vishnu the Preserver and Shiva the Destroyer. So when Mahadeb is seen in an attitude of wild dance



THE KALIGHAT TEMPLE.

with the dead body of Sati on his shoulders, the gods are thrown into consternation and seek through Brahma the Creator the protection of Vishnu the Preserver, who in order to save creation from the wrath of the bereaved Destroyer flings his disc

“ Sudarsan Chakra ” at the body of Sati and cuts it into 51 pieces which fall in a scattered shower on earth. Every spot of earth where fragments of the shattered body of Sati fell, became from that moment a holy spot pregnant with divine spirit of Sati (Kali).

Kali is not only the patron goddess of the Shaktas and the Tantric Hindus, but this goddess depicted as decked with the garland of human skulls and armed with a *Khanra* (the sacrificial sword) in one hand and the bleeding head of a human victim in another, has also been the dreaded goddess of the aborigines and of thieves, robbers and *thugs*. Vows are made to her previous to starting on marauding expeditions and she is propitiated with the blood of human victims. The blood-stained pavement at one end of the shrine at Kalighat will be noticed by the visitor. Here about 50 goats are sacrificed every day. The visitor will also notice at one corner of the compound of the temple a tree the branches of which are drooping with the load of *Manshiks* or vows, tied pieces of rags and coloured threads. These represent the vows and offerings from women desiring children and other things. The annual Kali Puja is held in the month of October with great pomp and ceremony.

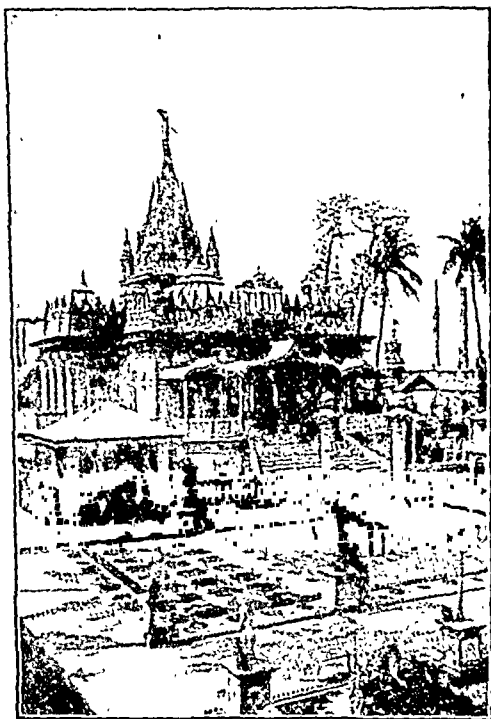
The Kalighat tram-car from Esplanade junction can take the visitor within a short distance of the shrine for three annas.

### Jain Temples.

The Jain Temples of Pareshnath are a group of most artistically made buildings and are situated in a very pretty and well-laid-out garden. The visitor should not omit it from his itinerary and should also see the *Shish Mahal* or the house of mirrors in it.

The Jain religion inculcates that regard for life is the highest virtue and no Jain would, if he

can help it, deprive a creature of life. Their tenets include belief in re-incarnation and their mode of worship is like that of other Hindus. The Marwaris and Bhatias of Barabazar are mostly all Jains. The annual procession from the stronghold of the Jains at Barabazar to the Jain Temple is one of the most gorgeous sights in Calcutta.



THE JAIN TEMPLE.

The Temples are in Halsi Bagan off Upper Circular Road about two miles above the Sealdah Station. The turning off, Upper Circular Road, which leads to the Temples, is marked by two pillars or gate posts of beautifully coloured crazy china.

The Temples are visible soon after the road is entered and the entrance is through a large gate-house of the *Nawbatkhana* style. An inscription on it shows that the shrine was erected in 1867 by Rai Buddree Das Bahadur, Court Jewellers.

### **Bhot Mandir.**

A visit to this place should be made by a taxi or a ticca gharry from Howrah Station. The temples are situated in Ghosery in Howrah, near the bank of the river in the locality known as Bhot-Bagan, named after this old Buddhist monastery built by Warren Hastings in 1775. This sanctuary and the adjoining quarters served as guest-house for the Bhutanese traders who came down to Calcutta in large numbers and got free quarters in the garden compound. The locality was called *Bhutia Bagan* which means the garden of the Bhutanese and has now been corrupted into *Bhot Bagan* and the temple which was originally called Bhutia or *Bhotani Mandir* is now similarly called *Bhot Mandir*. The sacred books and Tibetan images in the temple were sent by the Tashi Lama. Warren Hastings had established commercial relations with the Tibetans and in 1775 sent a successful mission to the Tashi Lama which was followed by a friendly mission from the Tibetans headed by Puran Gir Gosain who later on was established as the *Mahant* or chief priest of this Mandir. He was killed during an attack by dacoits on the monastery which was reputed to be very rich. His grave can be seen near the big temple.

### **The Parsee Fire Temple.**

The bigger one is situated in Metcalfe Street, off Bow Bazar Street, and the smaller one at 26, Ezra Street. It is called the *Agiarce*, or fire house. The sacred fire is made by mixing the fire used for cooking the food in seven households including that of



the Governor of the Province to which is added a piece of sacred fire from a previous temple. Once consecrated, it is kept up perpetually and never allowed to extinguish. Priests continually watch it by turns, night and day, year in and year out. The sacred fire of the big temple in Metcalfe Street was consecrated on 12th October, 1912. From the vault of the roof of the temple swing iron chains, each suspending a bell. A round pedestal in the centre has the silver brazier containing the sacred fire. No one excepting the priest, who can be recognised by his white garment, can enter this place. Visitors can have a look from outside.

There is a Parsee *Dharamsala* in Bow Street, where Parsee new-comers are provided with board and lodging free of charge.

### **Jewish Synagogue.**

The Jewish Synagogue is a fine red brick building of the Italian Renaissance style of architecture. In appearance it looks like a Christian Church and has a tall spire conspicuous from afar. It is situated at 109, Canning Street. The decorations inside are very impressive and richly finished. There is an inscription which runs thus—

“Elias David Joseph Ezra, the father of the Jewish community, who, to orthodox principles, united a heart susceptible of all that is good. This magnificent Synagogue, Maghian David, was built at his sole expense on a site belonging to the old Synagogue Nevah Shalem. He was born on the 20th February 1880.”

There is another Jewish Synagogue called *Bait El*, at 26, Pollock Street.

### **St. Paul's Cathedral.**

St. Paul's Cathedral, which is popularly known as the *Lât Girja*, on account of the fact that the Governors and the Viceroys attend Divine Service here, is situated near the south-east corner of the

Maidan on Chowringhee Road, and is a building of Indo-Gothic design with a tall graceful spire 201 feet high. The foundation was laid in October 1839. Major W. N. Forbes, Bengal Engineers, prepared the design and superintended its execution. From east to west the building measures 247 feet, the main entrance being at the west end. Inside are memorial tablets to many notables of Calcutta and India. There is a large white marble statue of Bishop Heber placed in the vestibule. It originally occupied the eastern verandah of St. John's Church and was removed from there to its present site by Bishop Wilson.

The Governor's seat is on the south side; six seats are arranged in a row below and are reserved for the Government House party. The Bishop's throne is placed on the south-east corner.

The Bishop's residence is situated on the eastern side of Chowringhee Road facing the Cathedral. It is an imposing building with a fine colonnade of pillars with Ionic capitols and was known as "The Palace," until the present Metropolitan of India, Bishop Foss Westcott in 1922, changed its name from "The Palace" to "Bishop's House" and it is now known by this title.

### **St. John's Church.**

It is situated at the junction of Council House Street with Hastings Street, Church Lane bounding its western limits, it was the Cathedral of Calcutta before St. Paul's in Chowringhee was built. It is designed on the lines of St. Stephen's Church, Walbrook, of which Sir Christopher Wren was the architect. The builder was Lieut. James A. Agg, of the Bengal Engineers. The building is made of stone brought from Gour, the ancient capital of Bengal under the Muhammadan Pathan kings. It is popularly called *Pathar-ka-Girja*, and has a flat

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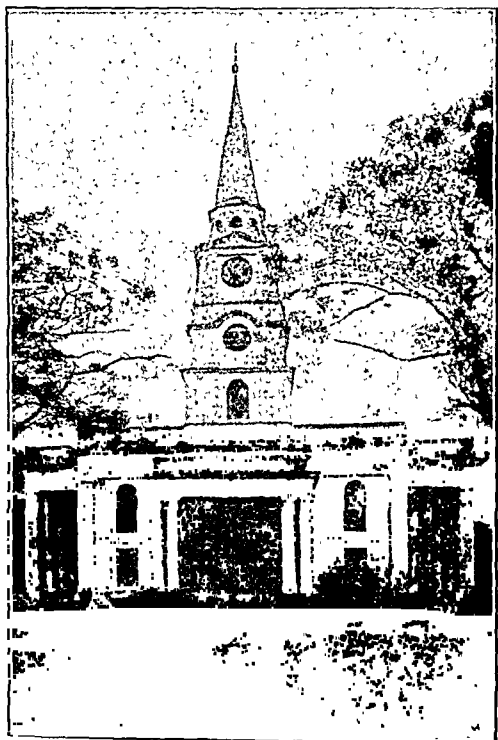
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roof which measures 7,400 sq. feet and a spire 174 feet high. A mural tablet says that—

“ the first stone of this sacred building, raised by the liberal and voluntary subscription of British subjects and others, was laid under the auspices of the Hon'ble Warren Hastings, Esq., Governor-General of India, on the 6th day of the month of April 1784 and in the 13th Year of his Government.



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH.

It was consecrated in 1787 during the time of the Marquis of Cornwallis. The main entrance of the building was originally at the east end which is now closed although the portico and the steps still

remain. The most frequented entrance is the iron gate at the junction of Council House Street and Hastings Street.

This Church is built on the grounds of the old graveyard of the East India Company, and many monuments over the graves of the notables of the time can be seen. For instance, there is one to Sir John Goldsborough, who was Admiral of the Fleet and who traced out the walls of the Old Fort William in 1693. There is a mausoleum over the grave of Job Charnock and his family, built in 1694 soon after his death by his son-in-law Sir Charles Eyre, the first President of Fort William. The stone was brought from the Pallavaram gneissic quarry near Madras which has ever since been called Charnockite. We see here the tomb of Admiral Watson who with Clive re-captured Calcutta from Seraj-ud-Dowla. The tombstone of Lady Canning is a very remarkable cenotaph surmounted by a beautiful and elaborate Ionic cross. It was originally erected on her grave at Barrackpore in November 1861 but was brought from there and placed in St. Paul's Cathedral whence it was transferred to its present site.

There is a domed pavilion over the grave of "Begum Johnson." She was a remarkable society woman, widow of four husbands and grand-mother of England's Prime Minister, the Earl of Liverpool. She was the daughter of Edward Crook, Governor of Bengal. In November 1741, she married Perry Temple (Percy Purple Templer, nephew of Thomas Braddyll, then Governor of Calcutta), who left her a widow early in 1747. In the following November she married a Bengal Civilian named James Atkin, who died of small-pox within 12 days. When the next November came round she married Mr. William Watts, who was the chief of the factory at Kassim Bazar near Murshidabad. When Seraj-ud-Dowla seized the factory and sent Mr. and Mrs. Watts as prisoner to Murshidabad she was befriended by the

grand-mother of the young Nawab who interceded for her and had her conveyed in safety to the French Settlement in Chandernagore. She had one son and two daughters from Mr. Watts. Her elder daughter, Emilia Watts, married Charles Jenkinson, first Earl of Liverpool; their son became the Prime Minister of England. In her 50th year Mrs. Watts married Chaplain Johnson, but refused to go to England on his retirement and remained in Calcutta where she died in 1812. Lord Wellesley allowed her to choose her last resting-place near Admiral Watson and Job Charnock. She was never tired of speaking of the kindness she received from the old Nawab Begum of Murshidabad and her frequent allusion to her gave her the nick-name of "Begum Johnson."

To the west of the monument known as Rohilla cenotaph is a memorial of Billy Spake, the 16-year-old midshipman of the Kent, who lost his leg during the capture of Fort Orleans in Chandernagore. This lad is said to have refused to be attended to until all the others had received medical aid. He was brought to Calcutta and was treated in the hospital which was situated near this graveyard and died of tetanus. It was near this grave that in 1893 an archæological find of great interest was made, *viz.*, the foundation-stone of the Coil Dragon and Crouching Tiger Fort built in the Island of Chusan in 1651 A.D. It can be seen in the Indian Museum at Chowringhee. How the foundation-stone of the Dragon and Tiger stronghold found its way to St. John's Church is a mystery that has not yet been solved.

While on a visit to St. John's Church one might conveniently visit *Warren Hastings' Town Residence*. A tablet on the wall of premises No. 7, Hastings Street marks the place. The building is now occupied by Messrs. Burn & Co. and they have preserved the old furniture and things which are kept in a room just as they stood in the time of Warren Hastings. Permission can be obtained to visit the place.

Warren Hastings lived here after he married his second wife, the beautiful Madame Imhoff.

On the wall of No. 7, Church Lane a tablet marks the residence of David Hare (1775-1842), the pioneer of the cause of English education in Bengal. The house occupied the corner of the junction of Hare Street and Church Lane on the site of which now stands Ezra Terrace. The tablet is on this building on the side facing the Judge's entrance of the Small Cause Court.

### **Old Mission Church.**

The Old Mission Church is in Mission Row behind Dalhousie Square East. The Church was founded in 1772 and is the earliest existing Protestant Church. It was built out of his wife's fortune by John Zachariah Kiernander, a Swede who had joined the Danish Mission. Being a red brick-built building it was popularly called *Lāl Girja*. On the death of his first wife Kiernander married Anna Wooley, a rich widow, who bequeathed her jewels to the Mission. With this Kiernander built the school and the Parsonage. The Church stands on the site of the house of Lady Russell who was a daughter of Morse, the Governor of Madras, and a great-grand-daughter of Cromwell. When St. John's Cathedral was closed for repairs, the old Mission Church was utilised as the place of worship by the Governor-General.

The Church Mission Society was given this building in 1870. The steeple fell in the earthquake of 1897 and has not been re-built since. It is said that a Muhammadan lady, named Wali-un-Nissa Begum, the daughter of a Haji and an inhabitant of Jeddah, was baptized in this Church in February 1871. A tablet has been inserted to commemorate this unusual event.

### **St. Andrew's Church.**

This Church forms a striking landmark to the north-east of Dalhousie Square. It is seen from the



farthest end of the Red Road in the Maidan dominating Old Court House Street and the great cock on its high steeple is visible even from a longer distance. The site is of historic interest as on it stood the Old Court House in which in 1775 the sensational trial of Nund Kumar was held, as also that of Philip Francis, Member of Council and opponent of Warren Hastings, who, unabashed by the fact that he had a wife and five children in England, paid undue attentions to Madame Grand, the wife of a young writer, and had to compensate the outraged husband with a sum of 50,000 *sicca* rupees. The trial lasted from 18th January to 6th March 1779.

The foundation-stone of the kirk was laid on St. Andrew's Day, November 30th 1815, with Masonic rites, the Governor-General being present in state. The Countess of Loudon and Moira, afterwards Marchioness of Hastings, was present at the ceremony and always used to attend this Church whence it was popularly called "Lât Sahab ka Girja." The main entrance is to the south of the building and has a handsome portico supported by lofty Doric pillars at the top of a high flight of steps. The carriage entrance to the north was subscribed for by the congregation in 1830.

There is an interesting story attached to this Church. It is said that Doctor James Bryce, a Presbyterian minister, and Doctor Middleton, the first Anglican Bishop in India, were travelling out to this country in the same boat and used to break the monotony of the voyage by religious controversies. The Bishop is said to have persisted that a spire was the exclusive prerogative of the Church of England. Dr. Bryce is reported to have retorted that he would build a kirk whose spire would soar higher than the steeple of St. John's Cathedral and he would place a cock upon its summit to crow defiance to the Bishop. Dr. Bryce kept his word and built this Church as the Scottish community had no kirk and used to meet in the rooms of the Asiatic

Society. It is said that as a result of the influence of the Bishop, the Public Works Department was forbidden to repair the cock, but the bird has nevertheless maintained its exalted position for over a century, crowing defiance to narrow-minded denominational bigotry.

### **St. James' Church.**

Situated at 167, Lower Circular Road, it is conspicuous on account of its double steeple and hence popularly known as the *Jora Girja* or the twin Church. The architecture is of Gothic style. It is one of the High English Churches and can seat about 500 persons. The Church was built in 1862 by Rev. Jaibo, whose painting can be seen in the Church. There is a fine processional cross in this Church which was used at St. James', Delhi, for the Delhi Durbar Services in 1907.

St. James' was the only Church in Calcutta with two steeples till the Church of St. Teresa was built in 1893 by the Roman Catholics. It is built in Gothic style in red brick and is situated a little higher up at 92-1, Lower Circular Road, on the opposite side of the same road as St. James'. It is said this Church was built by the Roman Catholics with the idea of not being done down by the heretical Church of England, but the building cannot compare with the architecture and the beautiful grounds of St. James' Church.

### **St. Stephen's Church.**

St. Stephen's Church is the Parish Church of Kidderpore at 5, Diamond Harbour Road and can be reached by Kidderpore and Behala tram-cars. It is remarkable for its slender spire and is considered one of the prettiest in Bengal. The compound is beautifully laid out. It was founded in 1846 in the area known as Surman's gardens in the days of the East India Company. The magnificent marble

pulpit " courageously true to mediæval ideas is well worthy of attention." It was presented by Rev. W. K. Firminger who rescued it from an undertaker's shop in Bentinck Street. The Church contains memorials of many sea-faring people, including James Henry Johnson, Commander R. N., who had fought in the Battle of Trafalgar.

Near this Church is Hastings' Bridge built in 1833. It was the first iron bridge in India and near it stood the gallows from which Nunda Kumar was hanged in 1775.

### **The Greek Church of our Blessed Redeemer.**

This is situated in Amratola Street off Canning Street and near the Portuguese Cathedral Yard. It is within walking distance of Clive Row across Canning Street. It was founded by Alexias Argeery, the first well-known Greek to settle in Calcutta. His remains are buried in the adjacent graveyard. While on a voyage to Mocha and Jeddah in company with Captain Cudbert Thornhill as an interpreter, the ship was caught in a storm and he vowed to build a Greek Church in Calcutta should he ever return in safety. He obtained the permission of Government to fulfil his promise, but died before executing the work which was accomplished after his death. The work of construction was started in 1870. The first priest of this Church was the celebrated Parthenio who served as a model for Christ in Zoffany's painting of the " Last Supper " which can be seen in St. John's Church.

### **Cathedral of our Blessed Lady of the Rosary.**

This is the old Portuguese Cathedral at *Murgihatta*. It is situated at 15, Portuguese Church Street, off the north end of Canning Street. The site was granted to some Augustinian missionaries in the time of Charnock. They built a humble edifice of mud and thatch in 1700; it was replaced by a brick chapel. It is remarkable that this

Catholic Church escaped destruction while the Protestant St. Anne's Church was burnt by the troops of the Nawab in 1756. Its records, however, perished when the city was re-captured by the English; the Catholic priests were expelled and their Church was appropriated for the use of the Governor and his Council, together with the rest of the English Protestant community for three years. They however found the old Portuguese Church too damp and unwholesome and built a Cathedral of their own; and the Church was restored to its owners in 1779. The old building was pulled down and the existing Cathedral was erected in its place almost entirely at the cost of two Portuguese noblemen, Joseph and Louis Barretto. The foundation-stone was laid on 12th March 1797, and the Cathedral was consecrated on 27th November 1799. In the graveyard of this Church are the remains of the first Archbishop of Calcutta, Paul Geothals. There is a marble tablet for Patrick Joseph Carew, Archbishop of Edessa, *obit* 1855, the founder of the famous St. Xavier's College. A most interesting relic is in the School-house, to the east of the compound. Here a couple of grave-stones lie under the east wall of the class room. A white marble memorial tablet records that near this place are interred the remains of Mary Carey, wife of Peter Carey, Mariner, who survived the tragedy of the Black Hole and died in Calcutta on 8th March 1801, aged 60 years. This tablet has been erected by the Government of Bengal.

### **The Church of "Our Blessed Lady of Dolours."**

This Church—popularly called the Baithakkhana Church—is situated in 147, Bowbazar Street east, and near its junction with Circular Road. Sealdah and Circular Road tram-cars pass by it.

From the documents in the archives of the Portuguese Mission it appears that the Church was founded in 1809 by Mrs. Grace Elizabeth.

There is however an account published in the "Calcutta Review" of 1846, in which it is said that the Baithakkhana Church was founded in 1809 by E. Shaw. This apparently gave rise to the conflicting statement regarding the personality of the foundress. Further investigations have shown that Mrs. E. Shaw is the same person as Grace Elizabeth, and she was born in Chittagong in 1754, and died in Calcutta in 1818.

It is said that she was a Muhammadan convert to Christianity, but judging from her picture in the Church, her appearance, dress and ornaments suggest rather a Tamil Hindu origin than the supposed Islamic descent.

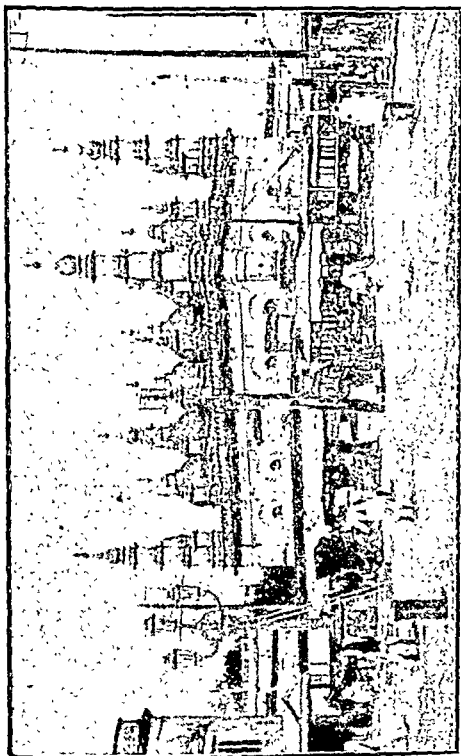
Grace Elizabeth is said to be the daughter of Mary de'Rozario who belonged to a family of repute in Calcutta who were Madras Christians. Some members of the family were high domestic servants of Sir Eyre Coote. She was apparently a lady of great piety and unusual business capacity, which is demonstrated by the clear and precise directions which she gave to the trustees regarding the management of the Church. The finances were invested in "Company's paper" and provision was made for the relief of orphans and widows. The trustees were enjoined not to put off the distribution of charitable relief on any account as "many may not live to enjoy this charity."

### **The Church of Our Lady of the Happy Voyage.**

It is situated in 3, Cullen Place, close to the Howrah Railway Station. Its construction was taken in hand in 1831, and finished in 1834. Father Paul da Gradoli, an Italian, built it at a cost of 70,000 rupees. It was much visited by Phillippine Catholic sailors who went there to ask the protection of God and the Blessed Virgin on their journey—very much in the same way as the Portuguese sailors did, at the Church at Bandel in the 16th and 17th centuries.

### Mosques.

Calcutta unfortunately lacks a handsome place of worship for Muhammadans. It is not a matter to be surprised at considering that the city was an entirely European settlement which grew and developed with the decay and downfall of Muhammadan power. After Siraj-ud-Dowla captured



TIPU SULTAN'S MOSQUE (Esplanade East.)

Calcutta and re-named it *Alinagar* he built a "Shahi mosque," at the north-west corner of Writers' Buildings, but it was demolished by Watson and Clive after the re-capture of the city, in retaliation for the damage sustained by St. Anne's Chapel, during the assault on the Fort.

The most handsome Muhammadan mosque in Calcutta is what is popularly known as *Tippu Sultan's Mosque*, which stands at the corner of Esplanade East and Dhurumtola Street. Its white domes and slender minaretttes with their gilded pinnacles are a pleasing break in the monotonous flat-roofed buildings surrounding it. The mosque was erected in 1842 by Prince Ghulam Muhammad, the youngest son of Tipu Sultan. Prince Ghulam Muhammad was born in 1796 and was the first Indian prince to visit England. He went to represent the case of the family of Tipu Sultan for special consideration, who after the Vellore Mutiny in Madras, were removed to Tollygunge near Calcutta, and were given certain pensions which were considered inadequate by them. He was very graciously received by Her Majesty the late Queen Victoria and created a Knight Grand Commander of the Indian Empire. He was a very pious person and apart from building the mosque at Dhurumtola he built a similar one at Tollygunge and founded a hospital and dispensary there for the poor and the sick of all communities. This is the modern *Russapagla* hospital at Tollygunge. An idea may be formed of the broad-minded charity practised by Muslims, from the fact that he contributed 50,000 rupees to start a fund in the Medical College Hospital for providing pecuniary assistance to convalescent Christian patients who may require help or may be destitute of the comforts of life when leaving hospital. The other Calcutta mosque which deserves mention is what is known as the *Bari Masjid* or the Nakhoda Mosque. It was built by Shamsunnisa Begum, a wealthy Muhammadan lady, whose descendants still live in Belliaghatta. Haji Noor Mohammad Zakaria, a Nakhoda merchant of Calcutta, became one of the managers and for a number of years looked after the estates endowed for the benefit of the mosque and the Madrassah attached to it. In the Madrassah, free religious

instruction and Arabic and Persian education are given. The mosque has popularly come to be called Nakhoda Mosque after the nationality of Noor Mohammad Zakaria, and the name of the pious founder has been forgotten. Situated in the heart of the Muhammadan locality with well-to-do merchants and tradesmen, the mosque attracts a congregation and employs an Arab or Egyptian Imam to lead the prayers.

His Majesty Amir Habibullah Khan of Afghanistan attended the *Juma* or Friday prayers here during his visit to Calcutta in 1908.

### Haji Karbalais Imambara.

Premises No. 10, Portuguese Church Street is occupied by the *Imambara* of late Haji Karbalai. It is a place of worship held in sanctity, specially by the *Shia* sect of the Muhammadans. The tragic events connected with the martyrdom of Imam Huseyn, the grandson of the prophet Muhammad, is annually commemorated here. Haji Karbalai Muhammad Khan was a wealthy Persian Muhammadan merchant and organised the famous *Alam* procession. Gorgeous gold and silver flags, maces, and other processional material have been made a free gift of by the Haji, who has also endowed estates for the maintenance of the *Imambara*, and the annual celebration expenses during the month of *Muharram*.

Visitors are allowed an inspection of the old relics, but they are required to take off their shoes before entering the room in which the *Zarih Mobarak* or facsimili of the sepulchre of Iman Huseyn at Karballa and the silver pulpit and the flags are kept. The annual procession during the 7th and the 10th day of the *Muharram* is one of the most impressive sights in the East and the entire traffic along the routes are stopped for many hours to allow the procession to pass.



## CHAPTER VIII.

*The Calcutta University & Educational Institutions.***The University.**

Calcutta has been pre-eminent as an educational centre and has played a most important part in disseminating the light of knowledge, learning and culture all over the country. The Calcutta University is the oldest institution of its kind in India and was established in 1857 with "The Advancement of Learning" as its motto and the Governor-General as its Chancellor. This University has the unique distinction of conferring *Causa Honoris* the degree of D. L. on three generations of the Crown Prince to the British throne—His late Majesty King-Emperor Edward VII received it when he visited Calcutta as the Prince of Wales in 1876, His Majesty King-Emperor George V in 1906 and the present Prince of Wales during his visit in 1922. The University of Calcutta was started as a federal University with an examining body modelled on the lines of the University of London and had affiliated to it the Colleges of Lahore, Allahabad, Aligarh, Nagpur, Patna, Gauhati and Rangoon. From the time of the Chancellorship of Lord Curzon the University has gradually taken the form of a teaching institution. Since 1904, its Post-Graduate Department has developed considerably, and now includes the teaching of Pali, Tibetan, Japanese and Chinese amongst modern languages. A scheme for a department of Technology and for Agriculture and Commerce has also been materialised. The Senate is divided into five faculties, namely, those of Arts, Science, Engineering, Medicine and Law. There is a Board of Higher Studies in the different subjects of Arts and Science.

The department of Examination is separate under a Controller of Examinations with self-contained staff and offices. The Registrar manages



HIS EXCELLENCY THE EARL OF RONALDSHAY.

the academic side of the University and has his own staff and offices. His Excellency the Viceroy *ex-officio* used to be the Chancellor and His Excellency the Governor of Bengal, the Rector of this University. By the new regulations based on the Universities Act of 1921, His Excellency the Governor of Bengal becomes the Chancellor of the Calcutta University, the Viceroy remaining the Visitor *ex-officio*. As a result of the recommendation of the Calcutta University Commission, a very good residential university of the unitary type has been established at Dacca with Mr. P. G. Hartog, C.I.E., late Academic Registrar of the University of London, as the first Vice-Chancellor, and His Excellency Lord Ronaldshay as the first Chancellor.

Thus Lord Ronaldshay became the first Chancellor of these two Universities. In recognition of his services to the cause of education in Bengal, the Universities of Calcutta and Dacca in 1922 conferred on him the degree of D.Litt. and D.L., respectively.

The buildings known as the *Senate House* are situated in College Square. They were completed by the end of the year 1872 at a cost of Rs. 4,34,697 and the University took possession of them early in 1873. The meetings of the Senate are held in the western hall of this building and the annual Convocation is held in the spacious Senate hall in the east which is provided with a fine auditorium at the back of the *daïs*.

The Senate hall is more than 200 feet in length and 60 feet in breadth. There is a colonnade of Corinthian pillars which supports the ceiling of the central hall inside, beyond which on either side are extensive corridors about 20 feet wide. At the entrance of the Senate hall are a number of busts of well-known educationists and in the vestibule of the portico is a full length statue in a sitting posture in white marble of the late Prasonna Kumar Tagore,



THE SENATE HOUSE, CALCUTTA UNIVERSITY.

C.S.I., the founder of the Tagore Law Professorship. The portico is a beautiful structure supported by Ionic pillars and has a wide flight of stone steps leading up to it. On these steps it has been the custom for the Chancellor and the Rector to be received by the Vice-Chancellor and the members of the Syndicate on the occasion of the Convocation.

The imposing five-storied edifice known as the *Darbhanga Library Buildings* is situated to the west of the Senate House and gives accommodation to the University Library, the University Law College, the Law College Library, and the University classes. The Registrar and the Controller of Examinations have also got their offices in this building. Here also are the chambers of the Vice-Chancellor, the President of the Post-Graduate Studies and the different Committee rooms. It also provides residential quarters for the Principal of the University Law College. The top floor is utilised for University examinations and can accommodate about 700 candidates. The building has been constructed at a cost of Rs. 8,50,973, of which Rs. 2,76,662 were contributed by the Maharajah of Darbhanga and Rs. 4,32,977 was granted by Government, and the remaining Rs. 1,41,334 was met from the University funds.

In the large vestibule at the landing of the main entrance of the Darbhanga Buildings on the first floor, looking towards the grand staircase, is a splendid marble bust on a white pedestal of Sir Asutosh Mukherji, a most remarkable figure in the domain of Indian education. The bust has been presented to the University by the registered graduates and the inscription on the pedestal gives an account of the services of Sir Asutosh to the University of Calcutta.

*The University Law College* in Darbhanga Buildings is an Institution which is devoted entirely

to the study of Law, and apart from the usual lectures, holds tutorial classes and Moot Courts where legal problems are discussed under the presidency of a professor as judge. Students are taken in small batches and are taught by their teachers to study and analyse cases and to deduce legal principles from a first-hand study of important judicial decisions.

*The University Press* is located between the Senate House and the Darbhanga Buildings, in a house which was originally built to provide temporary accommodation for the University Law classes.

To the south of the Senate House, land to the extent of 3 bighas has been acquired to construct a building for lecture rooms and an examination hall, and offices and orderly room for the Calcutta University Training Corps. Government has granted Rs. 8,00,000 for the purpose.

*University College of Science.*—The princely gifts of 15 lakhs of rupees by the late Sir Taraknath Palit, K.T., D.L., and of 20 lakhs of rupees by Sir Rashbehary Ghosh, K.T., C.S.I., C.I.E., M.A., D.L., Ph.D., have enabled the University to start the University College of Science at 92, Upper Circular Road. It is a splendid four-storied building and the laboratories of Physics, Chemistry, Applied Mathematics and Experimental Psychology have been equipped here. The Biological laboratories have been equipped in the building and the surrounding grounds at No. 35, Ballygunge Circular Road which was the residence of the late Sir Taraknath Palit and a University Professor of Botany and a University Professor of Zoology and of Agriculture and Rural Economics have been appointed by the Senate and are in residence in the same building.

*Hostels.*—There are over 17 thousand students in Calcutta studying in the affiliated colleges and they are required under the regulations to live in hostels which are under the charge of resident superintendents and assistants. The Hardinge Hostel is

meant for the University Law College students. The Eden, Baker and Carmichael Hostels give accommodation to College students, studying Arts and Science subjects, and have been provided by Government with buildings of their own. Besides these there are a large number of recognised or attached hostels and messes which are under the supervision of a University Inspector, managed by the Students' Residence Committee consisting of the Vice-Chancellor and six members of the Senate.

### **Calcutta University Institute.**

It was originally started under the name of "Society for the Higher Training of Young Men." In 1889 the Brahmo Missionary, Rev. Pratap Chandra Majumdar, gave it its present name and found accommodation for the institution in a room of the Hindu School where it remained till the present building was erected.

In 1915 Lord Carmichael laid the foundation of the present building which is situated to the north-east of College Square. It cost over three lakhs of rupees which were contributed by Government. The Hon'ble Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan contributed over Rs. 50,000 towards the furniture and equipment. The Institute possesses a fine reading-room, billiard room, lounge and gymnasium for the members. The spacious hall which is provided with a raised stage at one end is perhaps one of the best of its kind in Calcutta and provides seating accommodation for 1,500 persons. It is a healthy meeting-place for young men and provides facilities for the development of their mental, moral and physical culture. In the College Square tank opposite the Institute, swimming and lessons in life saving methods are given to the members.

### **Medical College of Bengal.**

The Medical College of Bengal is the oldest and largest institution of its kind in India. It has

enjoyed and maintained the highest reputation as the premier College of its kind in the Indian Empire. It covers about 26 acres of land in the immediate proximity of the University buildings in College Street. Some idea may be formed of the magnitude of the institution if one considers that most of the buildings are three-storied and situated near each other. The following group of hospitals are associated with the Medical College besides a newly enlarged eye hospital, an extern maternity department and the Carmichael Hospital attached to the Tropical School of Medicine :—

(1) The Medical College Hospital with 330 beds for medical and surgical cases; (2) the Eden Hospital with 105 beds for maternity and gynæcological cases; (3) the Prince of Wales' Hospital with 88 beds for aseptic surgical cases; (4) the Eye Infirmary, with 138 beds; (5) the Paying Patients' Cottage Block, with 12 beds; (6) the Cholera Ward, with 20 beds; (7) the Ezra Hospital, with 20 beds for Jewish patients. There is also an up-to-date dental and throat and nose out-patients' department.

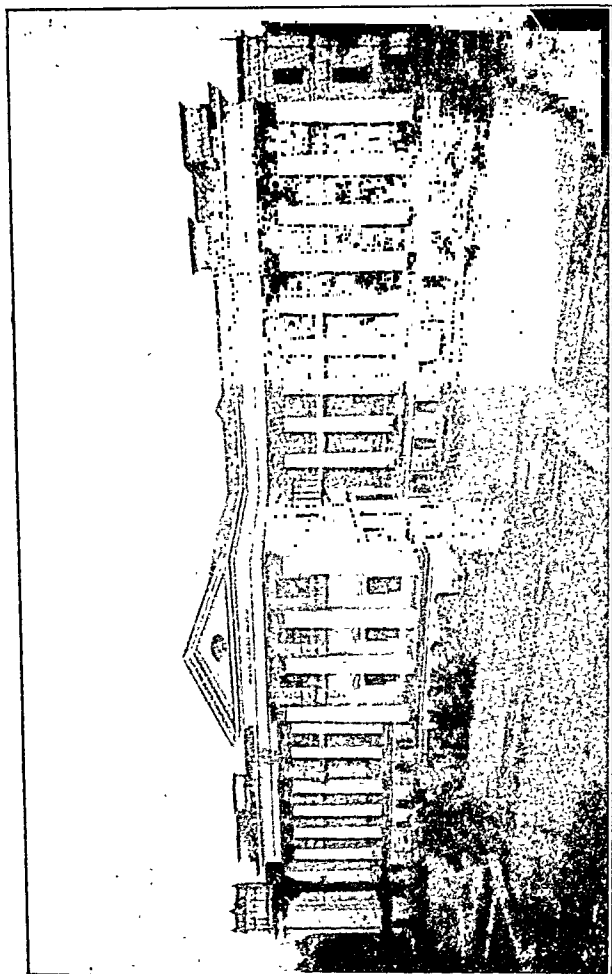
The X-ray department is located in the Lady Minto Electrical annexe, alongside of the surgical out-patients' department, where all kinds of radiological diagnosis and radio-therapy is available for the public. Calcutta however lacks an up-to-date radiological Institute where radium and X-ray therapy are combined for the benefit of suffering humanity.

The Medical College Hospital is an imposing building with a beautiful façade and a colonnade of Corinthian pillars. The foundation-stone was laid by Lord Dalhousie in 1852 with Masonic rites.

There are more than 1,200 students on the rolls of the College and the pupils are attracted from all parts of India and Burmah.

*The Anatomical Department* is the oldest in Asia and the finest and most spacious that can be seen in the British Empire. The museum is well





MEDICAL COLLEGE HOSPITAL.

stocked with models and dissected specimens. It was here that Pandit Madusudan Gupta with a few courageous students first dissected the human body in India on 10th January 1836. In commemoration of this unique event, in the annals of Indian medicine, Mr. Drinkwater Bethune, Member of the Supreme Council of India, presented Madusudan's portrait to the College and a marble tablet to his memory has been put up in the College hall. A salute of guns was fired from the ramparts of Fort William, just as the Indian students put their knives on the dead body for dissection.

This department was thoroughly reorganised and brought to its present standard of efficiency during the incumbency of the celebrated Surgeon Anatomist, Major-General Sir Richard Havelock Charles, G.C.V.O., K.C.S.I., M.D., F.R.C.S.I., of the Indian Medical Service.

The Biological, Physiological and Pathological departments are very fully equipped, and the museum catalogued and classified under the care of the renowned Professor of Pathology, Sir Leonard Rogers, F.R.S., M.D., F.R.C.P., I.M.S., is well worthy of a visit. Previous to inspection the permission of the Professor in charge must be obtained.

In 1837 a Council was formed to administer the College and the hospital, and David Hare was appointed as Secretary. The system lasted till 1856 when the Council and Secretaryship were abolished and the government of the College was vested in the Principal aided by Professors. In 1845 the curriculum was reorganised and the course of instruction extended to five years. The institution was recognised by the University of London, the Royal College of Surgeons and the Society of Apothecaries. On the creation of the Calcutta University in 1857 the College became affiliated to it and conferred

degrees of Licenciate and Doctor of Medicine. The University now confers the degrees of M.B., M.D., M.S. and M.O. and the Diploma of Public Health.

### **The School of Tropical Medicine and Institute of Hygiene.**

They are both situated on the new bullevard of Calcutta called the Central Avenue. They were opened in 1921. The school award a Diploma of Tropical Medicine after an examination following a nine months' course of Post Graduate study. The teaching examination and conferment of diploma is controlled by a Faculty of Tropical Medicine. The Institute of Hygiene gives training in a course of study for the D. P. H. Examination of the University. The curriculum extends for a period of one year.

Medical relief is given by experts in the attached Carmichael Hospital to patients suffering from diseases peculiar to tropical countries.

Research work is carried on in the School and there is a special department for the development of the Pharmacology and Therapeutics of indigenous drugs.

There are special departments for research work on Kala-azar, Leprosy, Hookworm disease and Dysenteries. An up-to-date Pathological, Bacteriological, Analytical and Serological departments are also placed in the same buildings.

The Director of the School of Tropical Medicine controls all the departments excepting the Serological Department which is in charge of the Imperial Serologist under the Government of India.

### **The Carmichael Medical College, Belgachia.** *Situated at 1, Belgachia Road.*

This is the first non-official Medical College in India and is managed by Indians. The present institution is the outcome of the development of a

few earlier institutions started by a number of Indian medical practitioners. For instance the Calcutta School of Medicine was founded in 1886. The Albert Victor Hospital opened in 1902 was the hospital attached to that institution. In 1904 the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Bengal, another private medical school, was amalgamated with the school. In 1911 with the powerful support of the late Major-General Sir Pardey Lukis, K.C.S.I., M.D., F.R.C.S. (Eng.), Director-General of Medical Services, a scheme for further development of the institution was launched. In 1915 the Secretary of State sanctioned a capital grant of Rs. 5 lakhs for buildings and an annual grant of Rs. 50,000 for recurring expenditure, provided Rs. 2½ lakhs were raised by the management for equipment and an annual grant of Rs. 30,000 obtained from the Calcutta Corporation and Rs. 10,000 from the University. The remaining recurring expenditure was to be met from fees and endowments.

All these conditions have been fulfilled excepting the University grant. This condition has been waived by Government. The College was formally opened by Lord Carmichael on 5th July 1916. Affiliation up to the Preliminary Scientific Examination was granted in January 1916, up to first M. B. examination in June 1917 and up to the final M. B. in 1920. The College is under the management of the "Medical Education Society of Bengal" on which three members are nominated by the Government of Bengal and one by the Corporation of Calcutta.

### **Campbell Medical School and Hospital.**

*(138, Lower Circular Road.)*

This is the oldest and largest Government institution for training students who do not aspire for a University degree but desire to qualify for a License of the State Medical Faculty of Bengal. The

teaching staff is very good and is recruited from the best available assistant surgeons in the Bengal Medical Service. The Superintendent is the head of the school and hospital and is a member of the Indian Medical Service. The curriculum of the school is laid down by the State Medical Faculty and is based on the lines of Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons of the British Isles. The governing body of the *State Medical Faculty of Bengal* is analogous to the Council of Medical Education in England excepting that here it has no control over the studies in the colleges which train students for University degrees. The State Medical Faculty confers a qualification inferior in rank to the M.B. degree of the University. There is a *Bengal Council of Medical Registration*. It deals with questions of eligibility of medical men to be put on the State Medical Register. All medical men are required to submit their diplomas and degrees for scrutiny to the Secretary and if found suitable by the the Council the name is put on the Register on payments of a fee of Rs. 16. Offices and committee rooms of the State Medical Faculty and of the Council of Medical Registration are on the second floor of Grosvenor House, 21, Old Court House Street.

### **The Presidency College**

(105, College Street.)

It was established on the 15th June 1855, by the East India Company. Its origin is closely connected with the Hindu College or *Vidyalaya*, founded by a number of Hindu gentlemen aided by Sir Edward Hyde East, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and opened on January 20th 1817.

Presidency College thus carries us back to the first efforts to promote liberal education in British India and is associated with the names of David Hare and Raja Ram Mohon Roy. The foundation of the present building was laid by Sir George Campbell in 1872. The institution is under the

Government of Bengal, Education Department, and is managed by a Governing Body.

A definite proportion of seats is reserved for Muhammadan students and the minimum has been fixed at 25 per cent. for the present, provided the candidates conform to the standard of educational fitness prescribed for entrance.

It undertook post-graduate teaching also, which is now conducted by the University. The College is affiliated to the B. A. Honours stage in English, Philosophy, Political Economy and Political Philosophy, Sanskrit, Pali, Persian, and Arabic, and in Vernacular Composition; and to the B.Sc. Honours stage in Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Physiology, Geology and Botany.

### **Oriental Studies.**

There are two old institutions for this purpose founded by Warren Hastings in 1781. The one for Sanskrit education, called the Government Sanskrit College, which is situated to the north side of College Square, and was built in 1824. The other meant for Arabic and Persian studies and called the Calcutta Madrassah is situated to the north of Wellesley Square and was erected in 1820.

The style of architecture of both the buildings and their situations by the side of a tank and square being similar, they look very much alike. In an annexe of the Madrassah building is located the Muslim Institute founded in 1901 by that brilliant Orientalist, Sir Denison Ross, during his incumbency as Principal of the Calcutta Madrassah. In the Wellesley Square tank lessons in swimming and life-saving methods are given.

### **Scottish Churches College**

*(Cornwallis Square.)*

In 1820, the Rev. Alexander Duff founded in Calcutta an institution for the propagation of the

Gospel through disseminating education. This he named the "General Assembly's Institution," after the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland whose first missionary he was. Its success was immediate and great. Again in 1843, when Dr. Duff and his colleagues cast in their lot with the party in the Church which separated itself and formed the Free Church of Scotland, they founded another College under the name of Free Church of Scotland Institution, on the same principles and with similar success. To the name of the second institution the title of Duff College was added after the death of its founder.

During recent years the separated branches of the Church in Scotland have been aiming at a reunion. Thus the demand for increased efficiency in Indian education and the evident wisdom of concentrating their efforts in one institution, found the missionaries ready to take the decisive step of uniting their separate Colleges in Calcutta into one. Accordingly from the 1st day of June 1908, the General Assembly's Institution and the Duff College ceased to maintain separate existence and are now united as "The Scottish Churches College."

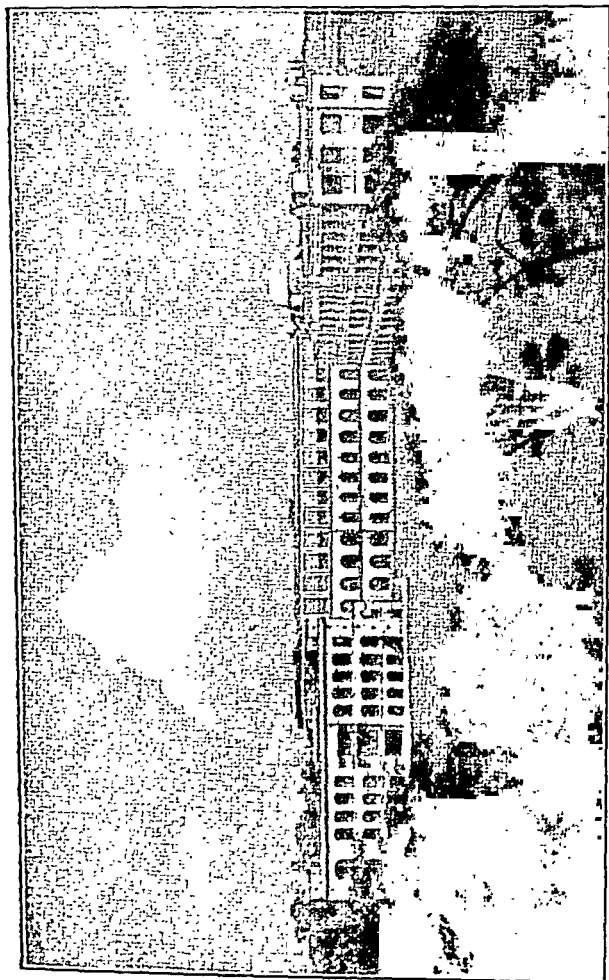
It is affiliated up to the B.A. and B.Sc. Honours standard of the Calcutta University.

### **St. Xavier's College**

*(30, Park Street.)*

This great educational institution of the Jesuit Fathers was founded in 1860 by Archbishop Carew and affiliated to the Calcutta University in 1862. In 1868 the buildings were considerably enlarged.

The *Sans Souci* theatre occupied the site of the present institution. It was sold in 1844 to Archbishop Carew who provided accommodation for St. John's College in it and subsequently for the St. Xavier's College.



ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE (South view).



The object of the institution is to give Catholic youths a full course of liberal education and to train up their hearts to virtue. Pupils of other religious persuasions are also admitted on the same principle of non-interference as in the old St. John's College which was closed in 1846.

This Catholic principle is well worthy of imitation by the Trustees of the La Martinère School in Loudon Street, who in a most non-Christian spirit shut the doors of enlightenment and learning against those who do not profess the Christian faith.

The College has an infant class and a lower and upper school department, teaching about 450 pupils and a College department of about 750 students. The course of studies embraces the subjects of the Cambridge Junior and Senior School Certificate examinations, and of the Intermediate Arts and Science and the B.A. and B.Sc. courses of the Calcutta University.

The Solar Spectroscopic Observatory, and the Meteorological Observatory attached to this institution are the oldest in India and enjoy the highest reputation. Thoroughly well-equipped Chemistry and Physics laboratories and halls for practical Science classes are attached to the College. The Fathers are most kind to the students and are always accessible and pleased to help their pupils in every way, even out of regular class hours.

The St. Xavier's College has always maintained a high watermark of efficiency and the popularity of the institution and its teachers has continued unabated for generations.

### **The Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science**

*(Situated at 102, Bow Bazar Street.)*

The Science Association was started by the late Dr. Mohendra Lall Sarkar, M.D., C.I.E., in 1869. He received a good deal of assistance from the late Rev. Father Lafont and Rev. A. de Penaranda who

taught Physics and Astronomy, respectively, in the Association classes. The Government of Bengal acquired the site at a cost of Rs. 50,000 and made it over to the Committee of Management. The inaugural meeting was held in the new premises on 29th July 1876, and the work of the association practically began from that date. The association has enlisted the services as lecturers in various scientific subjects of some of the most distinguished scholars and educationists. The Association has a commercial analysis class, and teaches analysis of water, food, drug and commercial products. It provides a two years' course after the Matriculation and imparts a good teaching in Physics, Botany, Chemistry and Commercial Analysis. The students are taught and examined both in the theoretical and the practical sections.

Dr. Mohendra Lall Sarkar's aim was "to enable the indigenous intellect in noble rivalry with the intellect of the West to assert its rightful sovereignty over the domains of nature." It was his wish that the management and control of the Association were to be vested in the hands of the natives of India. The Science Association has been able to found research scholarships and medals and to organise quarterly scientific meetings for the reading of papers in various branches of science. This institution exemplifies a *Swadeshi* movement of the best type. It is hoped that at no distant future, with endowment of professorships in different branches of science, this institution might develop into a National University College of Science.

### **Bose Research Institute.**

This institution owes its origin and inception to Sir J. C. Bose, the distinguished scientist, who has recently been honoured by being elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of London. It is situated at 93, Upper Circular Road, adjoining Sir J. C. Bose's house. The building is of the indo-Saracenic style

of architecture; the lecture theatre, fittings and furniture are also oriental in design. The acoustic properties of the large lecture theatre are most remarkable. The speaker can be heard distinctly in every part of the hall and there is no echo. It is next door to the University College of Science. Sir J. C. Bose demonstrates by his special methods and instruments the similar effects of anæsthetics and chemicals on plants and animals, and that plants go to absolute rest for one hour in the day and actually sleep when all animation is suspended. He holds that the nervous impulse generated in a living cell is double and not single, and that plants have nerve cells and fibres like animals. In the compound of the Institution one can see *Pecupul* trees which were planted there after being removed from their original place of growth while under the effects of chloroform, with all the nerve centres deadened under anæsthetic, and therefore, not getting any nervous shock during removal. The authorities of the Institute are pleased to see any visitor and show them round.

On the way to Bose's Institute one can visit *Lilly Cottage*, No. 78, Upper Circular Road, in which the great religious and social reformer of the Brahmo Samaj, Keshab Chandra Sen, lived and died. The visitor can see the *Samadhi* of the great reformer.

At 91, Upper Circular Road, can be seen the Offices of the Bengal Chemical and Pharmaceutical Works. This institution owes its origin to Sir P. C. Ray, the philanthropic Professor and Chemist. Here for the first time in India, indigenous drugs were prepared according to modern scientific methods on a commercial scale and several preparations are on the market. Pharmacological researches were also carried out under the auspices of this institution. The workshops and factory are at Manicktollah and Panihati.

## **The Bengal Engineering College, Sibpore and Shalimar.**

This is the only Engineering College affiliated to the Calcutta University. It was opened at Sibpore on 5th April 1880, and is under the control of a governing body appointed by the Government of Bengal.

It is a residential College to which all classes of the community are admitted.

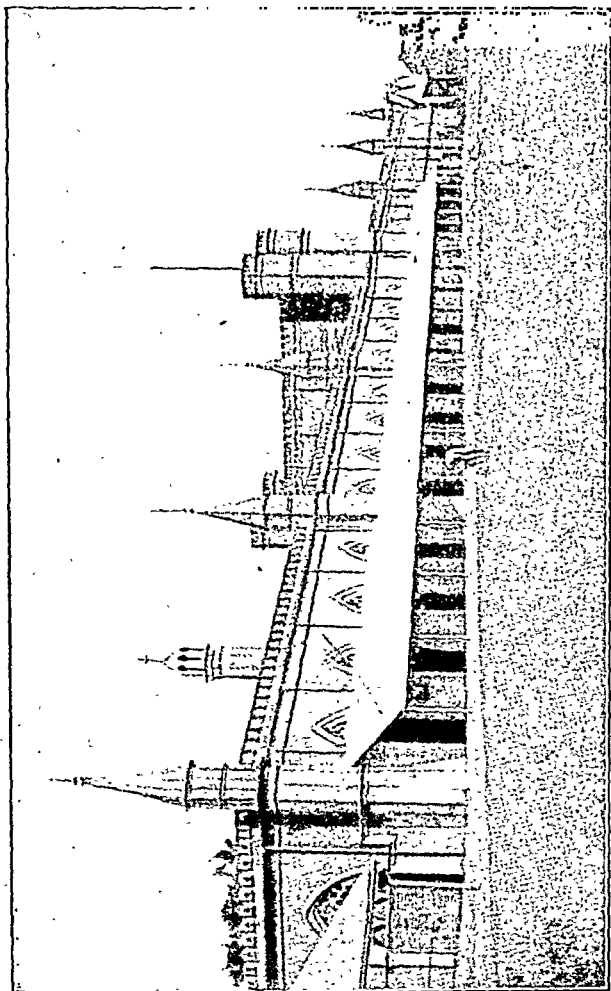
The College buildings are a stately grey pile noticed from the river. It is the first Gothic building erected in India. The design was drawn by William Jones, who came to Calcutta in 1800 as a mechanic and died of sunstroke while supervising the work. It was originally the "Bishop's College" founded by Bishop Middleton in 1820. In 1880, it was converted into the Civil Engineering College. In the compound is also situated a Church called St. Peter's Chapel and a graveyard. A little above this place Col. Robert Kyd built a house for himself, and a beautiful garden to which was given the pretty name of Shalimar, as it was modelled on the lines of the famous Shalimar garden of Lahore.

In the College there are two departments :—

(1) The Engineering Department, affiliated to the standard of the degree of Bachelor of Engineering in the Civil Engineering Branch and offering the full college Diploma of "Civil Engineer."

(2) The Apprentice Department now called the Mechanical Engineering Department, offering the course of the Joint Technical Examination Board of Civil Engineering to the upper subordinate standard in the Mechanical and Electrical Engineering and a College course in Mining for the Government Diploma in the Principles of Mining.

The students of the Engineering Department undergo workshop training for about eight hours



BENGAL ENGINEERING COLLEGE,

weekly. The students of the Apprentice Department spend three hours daily in the workshops. The workshop consists of a carpenter and blacksmith department, an iron and brass foundry, a fitting and machine shop, and industrial classes.

## CHAPTER IX.

### *Places of Miscellaneous Interest.*

#### **Small Cause Court.**

The Small Cause Court is a palatial building at the junction of Hare Street and Strand Road almost opposite the Imperial Library. The Court buildings occupy the site of what was known in the earlier days as the Company's House, and although official quarters were provided for the President in the old Fort William, certain Presidents preferred living in this house. After the re-capture of Calcutta by Clive and Watson it was converted into a marine yard with, dry docks for the repair of pilot vessels. In 1809, the docks were filled up. The Office of the Marine and Master Attendants, and the Ice-house which stood on the site were pulled down in 1882.

#### **Marble Palace.**

This belongs to the well-known Mullick family of Chorebagan and is situated in Mukhtaram Babu's Street in the heart of the Indian part of the town and can be easily approached by the Upper Chitpore Road tram-car or the new wide road of Calcutta, known as the Central Avenue. It is a remarkable building with a long marble paved hall lined with statues and contains numerous old chandeliers and a collection of oil paintings, including two by Rubens and an original painting by Sir Joshua Reynolds. The painting depicting the marriage of St. Catherine by Rubens was presented to the Government Art Gallery in Calcutta by Lord Northbrook and subsequently purchased in 1905 by the

Mullicks. The present owner is said to have refused an offer of £15,000 for it. It is placed in the north-west marble chamber. In the south drawing-room depicting the martyrdom of St. Sebastian is the other Rubens. The grounds of the palace are as interesting as the interior, and have a large number of statues, rare birds, and animals. The aviaries and the menagerie owe their origin to Sir James Hogg, whom the Supreme Court appointed as the guardian of Raja Rajendra Mullick Bahadur. Like most Bengali zemindars and noblemen the Mullicks are most courteous and are pleased to let visitors inspect the pictures and go round their house.

*Tagore Castle.*—A visit to Tagore Castle may well be included in one's itinerary. The palace was built by the late Maharaja Sir Jotindra Mohan Tagore, K.C.S.I., and is situated in Prasanna Kumar Tagore Street, off Upper Chitpur Road, south-west of Beadon Square. The Tagore Castle stands on the site of the library and *Baithak-khana* of the late Hon'ble Prosanna Kumar Tagore, C.S.I., the founder of the famous Tagore Law Professorship of the Calcutta University.

The law books of the library have been presented to the University Law College; the remainder can be seen in the "Prashad" which is opposite the Tagore Castle and is the family residence of the Tagores. The Tagores are a most cultured family. Maharashi Debendranath Tagore and the great poet Sir Robindranath Tagore belong to this family.

### **Municipal Market.**

The Municipal Market is called Sir Stuart Hogg Market after the name of the Chairman of the Calcutta Corporation and Commissioner of Police in whose time it was founded. This prosperous market with its wide scope of usefulness is deservedly the pride of Calcutta. It is one of the best run and most magnificent public markets that any Municipality in the world can boast of. It is certainly

the best and biggest in India and the East. The main entrance is in Lindsay Street where there is the clock tower. It was opened in 1874. It is standing on the site of a dirty old bazar with filthy lanes and filthier surroundings called Fenwick Bazar. For this reason Sir Stuart Hogg or Municipal Market is popularly called " Naya Bazar " or New Market. It was begun with the idea of providing a good food market for Calcutta. It has now developed into a place where anything and everything can be bought—the different departments are well set out and arranged in groups and ranges. The sanitation is excellent and the supervision very good.

### **The Station Hospital for British Soldiers.**

On Lower Circular Road, opposite the race course, is a fine building with a big compound and adorned with a frontage of colonnade of pillars. It is the Station Hospital for British soldiers and was originally built as a Military Hospital, but was utilised by Lord William Bentinck to provide accommodation for the *Sadar Dewani Adalat* which was the Chief Civil Court of Appeal for the Province. The building became the Station Hospital from 1862, after the creation of the High Court.

### **Cemeteries.**

A visit to the old cemeteries at the Lower Circular Road end of Park Street should not be omitted. There is a group of four cemeteries which will supply the visitor with material of unique historical and literary interest.

Park Street was once called the Burial Ground Road as it led to the English cemetery. It is still known as *Purana Goristhan Rasta* and Macleod Street, an off-shoot from near the old Mission burial ground, is still called *Goristhan Gulli*. In later years it was named Park Street on account of the park and gardens surrounding the house of



Mr. Vansittart, which is to the north of Loreto Convent in Middleton Row. The inscription on the house is as follows :—

“ This house was the garden house of Mr. Vansittart, Governor of Bengal, 1860-64. It was occupied by Sir Elijah Impey.”

Driving down Park Street towards Lower Circular Road, the first cemetery on the left is *Tiretta's Cemetery* bought by Edward Tiretta, an Italian gentleman who had left his native town for political reasons and came to Calcutta where he became Superintendent of Streets and Buildings. Tiretta Bazar in Chitpore Road is named after him.

The next burial ground is the *Old Mission Cemetery* also on the left side of the visitor and just where Macleod Street meets Park Street. This contains the family vault of John Zachariah Kierlander, the first Protestant Missionary of Bengal and the builder of the old Church in Mission Row which he named *Beth Topilla*, the house of prayer. His two wives also lie buried in the same vault. (*Vide* description of Old Mission Church, page 85.)

In the adjoining grounds known as the *North Park Street Cemetery* are the tombs of Richmond Thackeray, of William Jones (who built the first Gothic edifice in India, *viz.*, the Old Bishop College at Sibpore—now the Bengal Engineering College), and of Colonel Achilles Kirkpatrick, British Resident at Hyderabad, who is said to have married a Muhamadan lady of rank.

The last of this group of cemeteries is the *South Park Street Cemetery* immediately opposite. In this cemetery, there is a most remarkable collection of monuments of diverse shapes and sizes. The monument over the grave of Sir William Jones, the founder of the Asiatic Society, is very conspicuous. Colonel Kyd, the founder of the Botanical Gardens, General Clavering and Colonel Monson, the friends and supporters of Philip Francis, are also buried

here as also Captain Cook, a son of the famous Captain Cook, the navigator. Here also lies buried Captain William Mackay whose narrative of the loss of the *Juno* is said to have inspired Byron into writing his description of the shipwreck in *Don Juan*. One notices the graceful monument over the grave of the Hon'ble Rose Aylmer, the niece of Justice Sir Henry Russell, after whom Russell Street is named. The fluted columns are garlanded with rose, perhaps a reference to the name of the lady. Landor, who had made her friendship in Wales just after leaving Oxford, wrote the elegy in which the following lines occur :—

Rose Aylmer, whom these wakeful eyes,  
May weep, but never see.  
A night of memories and of sighs  
I consecrate to thee.

At No. 185, Lower Circular Road, opposite this cemetery, is the English cemetery. It contains the grave of Sir W. H. Macnaghton, the British envoy who was killed at Kabul in 1841, of John Paton Norman, officiating Chief Justice of Bengal, assassinated on the steps of the Town Hall in 1871, and of Sir John Woodburn, Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, who died in Calcutta on 21st November 1902.

Near by at 3, Karaya Road is the Scottish Cemetery.

(All these cemeteries are within walking distance of the terminus of the Wellesley and Circular Road tram-cars.)

There is a Military Cemetery at 2, Bhawanipore Road, where many notables are also interred.

### Nimtollah Burning Ghat.

The last sad duty for the dead is performed by the Hindus at a *Shashan* or Burning Ghat near a river; the body is placed on a funeral pyre stacked in a way to help easy ignition and the corpse is generally

burnt to ashes in three hours. The ceremony begins by chanting a few *Mantras* by the priest, and the mouth of the deceased is touched with a flaming faggot by the heir or the eldest male representative of the family present at the scene.

The Bhagirathi or the River Hooghly being a part of the Ganges is considered sacred and hence there is a great desire on the part of pious Hindus to breathe their last on its banks and be cremated there.

Nimtollah Ghat in Strand Road is the public burning ghat for the disposal of the Hindu dead bodies. The ghat was constructed by the Commissioners for the Port of Calcutta. The Strand Road Nimtollah Ghat tram-cars pass by the place.

There is another burning ghat on the banks of the Adi Ganga, the old bed of the Ganges, modern Tolly's Nullah, to which a visitor is taken through the west gate of Kalighat Temple by a priest guide for a small consideration. There is a pavilion built over the spot where the late Maharaja of Mysore was cremated. This place is conveniently visited along with a visit to Kalighat.

### **The Crematorium.**

The *Crematorium* is situated at 2, Crematorium Street, in Entally near Nonapokur. This place is not restricted to any nationality. Here dead bodies are cremated on payment of a fee according to scientific methods. The ashes of the dead, if required, are made over to the friends of the deceased. Unfortunately it is not used as much as it might have been.

### **Parsi Tower of Silence.**

The Parsis regard the earth as sacred and in order to prevent the soil from being defiled, their dead bodies are disposed of by being placed inside circular towers on sloping shelves placed tier over tier. The scavenging birds very soon eat away the flesh, and the

bones of the skeleton gradually get disintegrated through exposure to the weather and drop into pits of charcoal and sand where they finally crumble away into dust. These buildings are called Towers of Silence. Each family may have one reserved for it. Mr. Noraji Sorabji Bangali founded the first Parsi Tower of Silence in Beliaghatta Road.

The towers of silence can be reached by taxi-cabs or ticca gharries engaged at Sealdah Station.

### Muslim Burial Grounds.

The best known burial grounds for Muhammadans which are open to the public are the *Gor-i-Ghariban* at 32, Gobra Goristan Road. It is an old burial ground and contains the graves of some notable persons and saintly people. At Tiljala there is also a Muhammadan burial ground and another at 19, Bagmari Road, Maniktollah, known as the *Makbarah-i-Am*.

Respect for the dead body is strictly followed by the Muhammadans as a part of religious duty. The bier is carried on the shoulders of friends of the deceased and no hearse or paid pall bearers are requisitioned. The corpse is bathed in tepid water and clean new clothes impregnated with *attar*, powdered camphor, and rose water are put on and the body gently placed on a bier and taken to the nearest mosque or open place. Here all the friends of the deceased congregate and prayers for the dead are performed. The bier is then lifted and carried on shoulders to the burial ground, the party of mourners following mostly on foot and intoning prayers. At the burial ground another service is held after lowering the body into the grave. Out of regard for the dead body, earth is not put over it but by means of placing planks or wooden boards across the grave a deep vault is made and earth put over it.

## Jewish Burial Ground.

The Jewish burial ground is at 49, Soonra Road, Manicktola (out of town).

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## CHAPTER X.

### *The Suburbs of Calcutta.*

#### **Tollygunge.**

Tollygunge is a municipality about four miles from Government House and is named after Major Tolly who established a market and an Indian settlement here. There is a good tram-car service to it from Esplanade junction and the High Court. The road is also very good to go by motor-cars and is a straight continuation of Chowringhee Road. Tollygunge will interest the visitor who might like to study the ruins of the palaces once occupied by the eleven sons of Tipu Sultan of Mysore. After the fall of Seringapatam during the storming of which Tipu Sultan was killed, the princes and their families were confined in the fort of Vellore, near Madras. The family were suspected of complicity in the Mutiny at Vellore in 1806. This led the British Government to transfer them from Madras Presidency to Bengal, but on their arrival in Calcutta they were given full liberty and allowed to build houses for themselves at Tollygunge. Moizuddin Sultan was the younger of the two princes who acted as hostage to Lord Cornwallis and was the third son of Tipu Sultan. He lived with his full brother Sultan Sobhan Shah in *Khas Mahal* (the chief or special palace) which is situated in modern Anwar Shah Road. Muniruddin Shah was another son of Tipu Sultan and the grandfather of the late Bakhtiar Shah, C.I.E. He lived in the *Nach Kothi* or the dancing house. The *Pul-pâr* palace, so called as it is beyond the bridge away from the other palaces, is a well known place to Calcutta people

of the present time. This is the house of the late Prince Golam Mohamed Shah, G.C.I.E., famous for his charities and as the builder of the mosque at Tollygunge and at Dharamtala corner, the white domes and gilded pinnacles of which as seen from a distance have elicited so much praise from visitors. He was the youngest son of Tipu Sultan, but came to be recognised as the head of the family on account of his probity and wisdom and as such went to England to represent their cause. The descendants of the prince are pleased to show the visitor the old plates and pictures, including one of the late Queen Victoria, the Prince Consort and the Royal family which was presented to Prince Golam Mohamed with Her Majesty's autograph, during his visit to England. The Tollygunge Club is located in a palace once inhabited by the sons of Tipu Sultan. Fateh Hyder Shah was the eldest son of Tipu Sultan and was so named, as he was born immediately after a successful campaign (*Fateh*) against the Mahrattas. His residence was called *Bara Mahal* to signify his seniority and is opposite the Tollygunge Club on the road to the Royal Calcutta Golf Club Links. There are no descendents in his male line. The princes attracted men of learning around them and Tollygunge in its palmy days was a bright spot for the Muhammadans of Bengal. At present it is considered very unhealthy and malarious and decay and penury are apparent everywhere.

Tollygunge is noted amongst the European community on account of its races, and the Tollygunge Gymkhana Club and the Golf Club for ladies and gentlemen. The fine broad road leading to it is thronged every evening with the motor-cars and conveyances of the members, and the tram-cars are also well patronised. Visitors may be introduced by their member friends and use the recreation grounds.

## Alipore.

Alipore is named after Mir Muhammad Jaffer Ali, Nawab of Murshidabad, and is a fashionable suburb of Calcutta. Most of the houses have fine and spacious compounds and well-laid-out gardens. *Bijay Manzil*, the palace of the Hon'ble Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan at 5, Alipore Lane, is a particularly charming spot. There are many places of interest in this locality connected with old Calcutta. For instance, modern Penn Road is a reminder of the extensive paddock of Warren Hastings which once occupied that locality.

The *Duel Avenue* situated between Sterndale Road and the Zoological Gardens on the way to the Observatory has received its name from the fact that questions of honour were decided in the days of the East India Company by pistol shots under the shade of these trees.

The residence of Philip Francis was situated on the extensive grounds now occupied by the Jail and the Reformatory and the adjacent houses, chief of them being the "Lodge," the official residence of the Collector of the 24-Perganas. Mr. Richmond Thackeray, when Collector, lived here with his son William Makepeace Thackeray. While Secretary of the Board of Revenue, Calcutta, Mr. Thackeray, the elder, lived in 39 Free School Street, in the house which is now occupied by the Armenian College. William Thackeray was born there on 18th July 1811.

## The Zoological Gardens.

The Zoological Gardens in Alipore are near Belvedere House. They are beautifully laid out with fine trees, plants and ornamental lakes. They were planned by Sir Richard Temple, Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, and opened on 1st January 1876 by the late King-Emperor Edward VII, when he visited Calcutta as Prince of Wales. The popular

name is *Chiria Khana* (the aviary) which is hardly correct because the collection consists not only of birds, but those of beasts, reptiles, fishes and of other aquatic and amphibious animals. The animal collection is one of the finest in the world. There is a refreshment room run by a European firm of caterers as well as an orthodox Indian establishment. Admittance is from sunrise to sunset and an entrance fee of one anna is charged for it. On Sundays from sunrise to 10 A.M., the entrance fee is four annas, and from 2 P.M. to sunset it is one rupee. A military band plays on the lawns on Sunday afternoons. An extra charge of a rupee is also levied on each carriage, admitted within the grounds, coachmen and syces being free. There is also a free day once a month. On the 1st of January each year a Fancy Fair is held in the " Zoo " and it is an event of great attraction. At Esplanade Junction one can board a Kidderpore tram-car, and alighting at the foot of Kidderpore bridge walk *viâ* Orphangunj Road to the Zoo. One can also go by motor-car or carriage *viâ* the Zeerut Bridge, the garden lying to the right of the further end of the slope.

### **Belvedere House.**

Belvedere House is reached by driving straight down the Zeerut Bridge. The extensive grounds are most beautifully laid out and well kept.

The façade is adorned with a double row of pillars with Corinthian capitols in the upper storey and Ionic in the lower.

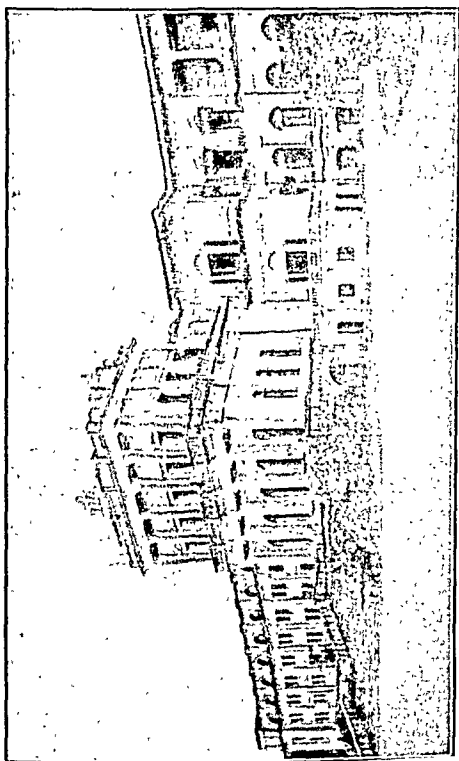
The entrance is adorned with Royal Arms between figures of nymphs. The principal gate has a fine lofty masonry arch surmounted by a Royal Bengal Tiger and a Flagstaff.

This house was the official residence of the Lieutenant-Governors of Bengal, till the transference of the Capital from Calcutta and the conversion of Bengal into a Presidency with a Governor in 1912.



The Governor of Bengal now lives in Government House formerly occupied by the Viceroys.

The Viceroy now occupies Belvedere during his visits to Calcutta. The beautiful and spacious Durbar Hall is used to hold Viceregal receptions and dances.



BELVEDERE HOUSE, ALIPUR.

It is said that this house was originally built by Prince Azim-us-Shan, the son of Aurangzeb, in 1700, and that Nawab Mir Mohammed Jaffar Ali lived in it during his exile after being deposed from the Masnad of Bengal by Mir Kassim.

Warren Hastings is said to have occupied this house before he built Hastings House. It was subsequently purchased for the reception of the Nawab of Bengal, whenever he visited Calcutta. In 1786, the house became the property of Major Tolly, the re-excavator of the Adi Ganga Nullah which is since then known by his name as Tolly's Nullah. Philip Francis was carried to this building after being wounded by Warren Hastings in a duel.

From 1822 to 1825, Sir Edward Paget, Commander-in-Chief, occupied this house. In 1854, the East India Company bought it and it was made the official residence of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal.

### **The Agri-Horticultural Gardens.**

This garden is situated on the east side of Alipore Road adjoining Belvedere House, of which it once formed a part. Inside this garden is an ornamental tank to the east of which was an old mausoleum said to have been built over the tomb of one of the Begums of the Nawab of Murshidabad. This however has now disappeared. The building stood near the entrance to the gardens and was levelled in 1890 and the remains of brick and mortar gradually removed without attracting public notice under the screen of a handsome Bougainvillea which was first trained to grow over this spot and cover the crumbling ruins. It is a pity that the tomb was not repaired, renovated and preserved as an old landmark of the residence in the locality of Nawab Mir Mohammed Jafar Ali Khan of Murshidabad who gave his name to Alipur, and of his Begum after whom a village near by is called Begumpur. Overlooking the tank was the white pedestal and bust of William Carey, D.D., who founded the Agri-Horticultural Society of India in 1820. The bust has now been removed and placed opposite the office of the garden. Dr. William Carey was a remarkable man. He with Marshman and Ward established the famous mission

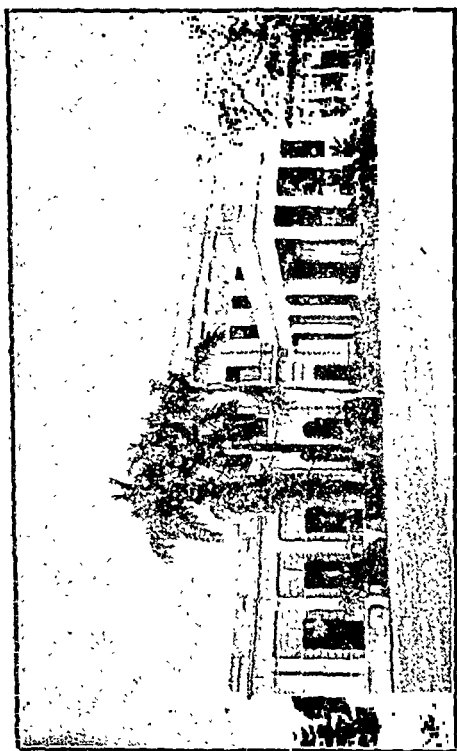
at Serampore, which at that time was a Danish settlement, and founded the Baptist Missionary Society in 1792. Carey was appointed professor of Bengali in the College of Fort William established by Lord Wellesley to impart a knowledge of colloquial vernacular languages to the new members of the Company's service. This is now the famous Board of Examiners in Council House Street. While at Serampore, Carey printed the first Bengali Dictionary in this country. He was a truly great man and was never ashamed of owning his original humble position in life. On one occasion while dining with Lord Hastings at Barrackpore, Dr. Carey overheard a General Officer enquiring from an *Aide-de-Camp* whether the guest of the Viceroy did not at one time work as a shoe maker. Carey at once turned towards him and said : " No sir, only as a cobbler." He died in 1834.

### **Hastings House.**

Hastings House is the name given to the celebrated garden house of Warren Hastings, the first Governor-General of Bengal. It belonged to Nawab Mir Mohammed Jafar Ali Khan who gave away his extensive property at Alipur as a free gift to Warren Hastings for his kindness and attention to him during his three years' exile after his dethronement by Mir Kassim. The estates of the Governor-General were sold in three lots; the property in lot II included " a house with the large tank of excellent water." This apparently refers to Hastings House.

The original house is the central building with its portico; the side wings are later additions. This is the little house which Mrs. Fay describes as " a perfect Bijou." In this house, then called the Alipur Gardens, Warren Hastings lived with his second wife, the celebrated Madam Imhoff, to whom he was passionately devoted. He had planted cinnamon and other valuable trees on the grounds,

which he had laid out very beautifully. The building and its spacious grounds were neglected for many years and presented a melancholy state of decay and desolation up till 1901 when it was bought for Government by Lord Curzon and converted into a State Guest-House for Indian Princes and Nobles.



HASTINGS HOUSE, ALIPUR.

In 1908, His Majesty the late Amir Habibullah Khan of Afghanistan stayed at Hastings House during his visit to Calcutta.

Lord Curzon made various additions and improvements to the buildings and put up a tablet above the entrance with the following inscription :—

“ This House known as Hastings House, originally the country seat of Warren Hastings, Governor-General of Fort William in Bengal, 1774 to 1785, was bought as State Guest-House by Lord Curzon, Viceroy and Governor-General of India in 1901.”

After the transfer of the Capital from Calcutta to Delhi, Hastings House remained unoccupied till 1915, when it was converted into a residential Boys' School for the sons of well-to-do Indian gentlemen in imitation of an English Public School. The arrangements were unsuitable and the experiment did not prove a success and the school was closed in 1920 and the place is again left vacant.

There is a ghost story connected with Hastings House. The great Governor-General is said to be seen driving in a coach and four up the avenue and on alighting enters and house and is seen in search of something.

Cotton is of opinion that a peculiar corroboration of this story is furnished by a letter from Warren Hastings to his friend and late Private Secretary Nesbitt Thompson, in Calcutta, dated 21st July 1875 : “ It pains me,” he writes, “ to recur to the subject of my bureau. I have not yet received any intelligence from you or Larkins about it. You cannot conceive my anxiety about it.” The contents of this bureau were apparently highly prized by Hastings.

### **The Alipur Observatory.**

This is an important place of interest in Alipur from the point of view of the scientist. It is approached from Sterndale Road which strikes off Alipur Road at the corner of “ Woodlands,” the Calcutta residence of the Maharajah of Cooch Bihar. It is also within easy walk of the Alipur, Behala

and Kidderpore tram lines which can take the visitor from Esplanade Junction in the Maidan to the vicinity of the Observatory.

The Alipur Observatory with the Meteorological Office is one of the first class Observatories under the Government of India, Meteorological Department. It is in charge of the Meteorologist, Calcutta, and the staff consists of a Chief Observer, five Assistant Observers, one Superintendent, one Head Clerk, 24 Clerks, and an Inspector of Observatories.

*Meteorology.*—The principal instruments in use are : a Knudsen Barograph, a Dines Microbarograph, a Kew Thermograph, a Beckley Anemometer, a Dines Pressure Tube Anemometer, Beckley, Hellman Fuses and monthly recording rain-gauges, two Omori-Ewing Seismographs, grass and ground Thermometers and a Nephoscope. Besides these the Meteorological Observatory possesses a Standard Barometer with which on occasions comparison with Indian Secondary Standard Barometer can be made.

All instruments issued by the Meteorological Department in India are tested at this Observatory and their corrections ascertained before they are issued to other Observatories for use.

The Alipur Observatory possesses a transit instrument and gives mean Calcutta time to the port and shipping. Three time balls are dropped daily at 1 P.M. local mean time, throughout the year, one on the Semaphore Tower at Fort William, the second at the Port Commissioners' Office and the third at the Kidderpore Docks.

A time signal is sent by a "Time Diffuser" twice daily at 7 A.M. and 7 P.M. standard time to the Fort wireless stations whence a broadcast wireless signal is transmitted at these hours for the benefit of the shipping in the Bay of Bengal. The Meteorologist publishes daily a Weather Report comprising North-Eastern India and the Bay of

Bengal area and based on the observations at 94 stations taken at 8 hours daily and telegraphed direct to Alipur. Daily telegrams summarising the meteorological conditions are sent to various ports round the Bay. In times of bad weather or cyclonic storms in the Bay of Bengal storm warnings are also issued to shipping and to the principal ports throughout the area; rain warnings are also issued to a large number of irrigation and other offices. An arrangement exists whereby direct information can be obtained from ships by wireless. A broadcast wireless message giving a brief statement of meteorological conditions is issued daily from this Observatory for the benefit of shipping at sea.

### **Kidderpore House.**

Situated in Diamond Harbour Road south of St. Stephen's Church, and approached by the Kidderpore and Behala tram-car services, is the Royal Military Orphanage standing on extensive grounds. It is known as the Kidderpore House and is of historical interest as being the country residence of Richard Barwell, the friend and supporter of Warren Hastings, who with the Governor-General formed the minority, while Philip Francis, with Colonel Monson and General Clavering, formed the majority in the Governor-General's Council. Mr. Barwell belonged to the Bengal Civil Service and was the owner of Writers' Buildings and of other extensive estates from which he got a handsome income. His house was famous for its entertainments and was frequented by every social belle and literary light of that period, and was noted for gambling for high stakes. Its ball-room was particularly celebrated. After requisite structural changes, the house was utilised as a military orphanage, founded by Major Kirkpatrick in 1782 for the benefit of the children of officers and men of the Bengal establishment. The ball-room was not altered and as a relic of old times it is in the words

of Busted, " perhaps the only room now remaining in Calcutta, in which all the grace and the comeliness were often gathered together. What generations of exiled feet—the gayest and lightest—have not disported on this floor. The very lamps and wall-shades which were lighted in the Consulship of Warren Hastings are sometimes lighted still. What stately minuets and cotillions and romping country-dances long obsolete, have those old lustres not looked down on. Who does not wish that they could speak of the past and its faded scenes and tell us stories of the merry 'ladies and gentlemen of the Settlement,' of their frolics and their wooings—their laughter and their love.

It is said that on the 17th August 1780, on the day of the memorable duel, Warren Hastings and Philip Francis met at 5 A.M. near this house. The site is close to where the road to Alipur was crossed by an avenue of trees shading a walk in the grounds of Belvedere House. As it was nearly time for people to go out for their morning ride, a more secluded spot was selected. Dr. Busted has identified the northern boundary of the present premises No. 5, Alipur Road as the place where the duel was fought. Both opponents stood at 14 paces distance and fired simultaneously. Francis was shot through the shoulder and dropped. His own house was some way off. He was therefore carried to Major Tolly's house (Belvedere).

### **Kidderpore Docks.**

Kidderpore is noted for its extensive docks where most of the export trade of the port is carried on and where sea-going vessels are berthed for repairs. Extensive additions to the Port Commissioners' properties have recently been inaugurated and the King George's Dock will soon be completed and will be one of the most up-to-date places of its kind. A time ball is dropped daily at 1 P.M. from the clock tower situated near the lock entrance of the Kidderpore Docks.



## CHAPTER XI.

*Excursions on the River and by Train Services or Motor-cars.*

The vicinity of Calcutta provides ample material for excursions. Places can be visited either by motor-car, railway train or by the river. *The visitor to Calcutta must not omit an excursion on its great and historical river.* It is a most pleasant and refreshing trip and the cheapest and best means of getting from Calcutta to the Royal Botanical Gardens. The Port Commissioners maintain an efficient service of steam launch ferries, plying between Calcutta and Uttarpara up the river to the north of Howrah and to Uluberia and Rajganj down the river. These ferry steamers start from Chandpal Ghat for trips down the river. For stations up the river the steamers start from Burra Bazar Ghat. Visitors can take short excursions up and down the river and visit any of the following places of interest, short notes on which are given. There is also a steamer service between Chandpal Ghat and Kidderpore Docks on the Calcutta side, and Telkul Ghat, Ramkrishnapore, Shalimar and Sibpur on the Howrah side. The ferry steamer service is half-hourly practically the whole day. A time table is given in the notes on the Botanical Gardens.

There are other steamer services by which one can enjoy a river trip from Chandpal Ghat to Rajganje and Uluberia. If one has the time and wishes to spend 24 hours on the river one can do so on steamers that ply between Armenian Ghat in Calcutta and Tamluk, Kola Ghat and Ghatal on the Rupnarayan river in the district of Midnapur, or between Burra Bazar Ghat and Aheritollah Ghat in Calcutta to Kalna up the Bhagirathi river in the district of Burdwan.

*N.B.*—Kalna Court is a railway station on the East Indian Railway (Bandel-Barharwa Branch) and the train can be used for the return journey. In the same way Kola Ghat Station on the

Bengal-Nagpur Railway may be utilised. None of these steamers cater for any refreshments, food or tea. They must be arranged for by the passengers themselves. These trips can only be indulged in by people making a long stay in Calcutta and are best enjoyed during the rainy season and the winter months. the train journey during summer months is not pleasing. The new-comer should not attempt this strip in his itinerary.

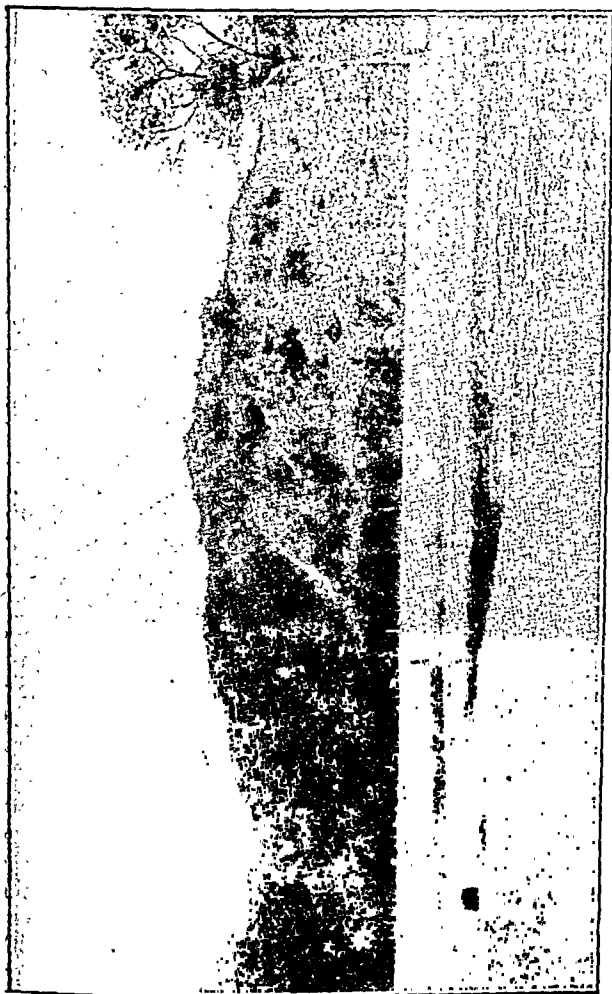
*The following stations are down the river :—*

### **The Royal Botanical Gardens, Sibpur.**

The Botanical Garden was founded by the East India Company in 1786 and is still popularly called *Company Bagh* or *Bagan*. It was planned and laid out by the celebrated horticulturist, Col. Robert Kyd, who owned the house and garden at Shalimar near the present Engineering College. Now only the name Shalimar survives of the once beautiful spot. Botanical Garden lies opposite Garden Reach and a trip to it by the river is a most pleasant experience, but the visitor can also arrive by car from Howrah. From the landing stage on the river one enters the garden through a long straight avenue of palms. One of the chief attractions in the garden is the famous Banyan tree which is said to be the largest in India. The tree covers about a thousand feet of ground in circumference and has nearly two hundred and fifty aerial roots.

When Bishop Heber visited the gardens, he wrote : “ It is not only a curious but picturesque and most beautiful scene, and more perfectly answers Milton’s idea of Paradise, except that it is on a dead flat instead of a hill, than any thing I ever saw.”

The Herbarium is a most important botanical collection. The Superintendent’s bungalow on the river bank stands on the site of the old Fort of Mukwah Tana. It was the capture of this Fort in 1742 by the Mahrattas that made the Calcutta people dig the famous *Mahratta ditch*, as a protective measure against invasion. This garden is of academic interest as the place where the experiment of introducing tea from China was successfully per-



THE GREAT BANYAN TREE, ROYAL BOTANICAL GARDENS

formed and the Cinchona plant from South America was also successfully grown.

The *Ferry Steamer* for the Botanical Gardens leaves Chandpal Ghat near High Court and lands passengers at the Botanical Gardens. The steamer leaves Chandpal Ghat at 6 A.M., 7-45 A.M., 9-30 A.M., 11-15 A.M., 1 P.M., 2-45 P.M., 4-30 P.M. and 6-10 P.M. It leaves the Botanical Gardens at 6-53 A.M., 8-38 A.M., 10-23 A.M., 1-35 P.M., 3-38 P.M., 5-23 P.M. and 7 P.M. First Class fare is 4 annas and Second Class fare 1 anna. The time table is liable to periodic variations.

**Matiaburj or Garden Reach.**—This place can be reached in about forty minutes from Chandpal Ghat, being nearly five miles away. It was here that the last King of Oudh resided on an allowance from the British Government. Some of the descendants of the King still live here. The old palace, and the *Shahi Imambara*, on the main road, near the Bengali Bazar, are worth a visit. The illuminations are very fine during the first ten days of Muharram. There is a large ship-building yard here. First class fare 5 annas.

**Rajabagan.**—This small village is situated nearly six miles from Chandpal Ghat. There is a ship-building yard here and the Clive Mills where cotton goods are manufactured. There are also the large brickfields owned by the Public Works Department. First class fare 6 annas.

**Rajgunge.**—This place is reached in an hour and ten minutes and is nearly eight miles from Chandpal Ghat. It is the centre of a large fishing and cocoanut trade and boasts of a couple of jute mills and brick-fields. Steamers leave Chandpal Ghat at 6-00, 7-10, 10-00, and 11-25 A.M. and 1-00, 2-30, 4-00, 5-40 and 7-15 P.M., and for the return journey they leave Rajgunge at 5-50, 7-15, 8-50 and 11-25 A.M. and at 1-00, 2-40, 4-00, 5-10 and 6-55 P.M. First class fare 6 annas.

*The following stations are up the river :—*

**Cossipore.**—This place is nearly three miles from Burra Bazar Ghat, which is situated on the strand bank, immediately to the north of the Calcutta end of Howrah Bridge and the adjacent bathing ghat. There is a gun factory, sugar factory and a number of jute press houses as well as the temples of the goddesses Chitteswari and Sarvamangala. First class fare 3 annas. It is reached in 30 minutes.

*Cossipore Gun and Shell Factory.*—An interesting place for visitors. The factory is situated on the banks of the Hooghly but is most conveniently visited by motor-cars. It was first established in 1801. On the way to Cossipore by road one passes through the ancient village of Chitrapur now called Chitpur. In the temple of Chittra Debi worshippers offered human sacrifices. Muhammad Reza Khan, popularly known as the Chitpur Nawab, to whom the internal administration of Bengal was entrusted by the East India Company, lived in this locality. Just beyond Chitpur Police Station a cross road runs west to the Gun and Shell Factory. The main entrance faces south, and is adorned with Royal arms in gold, above a shield bearing gun carriages and the motto "*Sua tela tonanti.*"

**Kutighat.**—This station is nearly four miles from Burra Bazar Ghat and is reached in forty minutes. It was an old-time Dutch Settlement. There are jute mills in the vicinity. A first class ticket costs 4 annas.

Just opposite Kutighat on the east bank of the river is\* **Belur Ghat.**

\* **Bally**—Is reached in fifty-five minutes. Fares same as above.

\***Uttarpara.**—This place is reached in one hour.

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\* For descriptive notes, see page 141.

**Sibtala.**—This place is nearly seven miles from Burra Bazar and is reached in one hour and ten minutes. There is a fine temple of Siva in the vicinity called *Dakhineswar* and a place of pilgrimage of the Hindus. There is another temple known as Rani Rashmoni temple where Ram Krishna Dev, the founder of the Ram Krishna Mission, Belur-Math monastery, spent his days. A garden here belonging to the Sova Bazar Raj family is said to have been the retreat of Lord Clive, where he sought rest from his work. First class fare is 4 annas.

The following places can be reached *by railway train or by motor-cars* :—

On the Eastern Bengal Railway are Dum-Dum, Barrackpur and Titagarh. The trains start from Sealdah Station and there is almost an hourly service between Calcutta and Barrackpur night and day. Opposite the main Sealdah Station entrance will be noticed the memorial obelisk in honour of the officers and men of the Eastern Bengal Railway who fell during the world war.

**Dum-Dum**—Is a little over four miles from Calcutta. It is a military station of old standing. Tradition speaks of a fort and of a robber stronghold there. It was the headquarters of the Bengal Artillery and is still an important cantonment, and is the site selected for the Calcutta aerodrome. It was once the favourite country residence of Clive, and his old house can be seen on the west side of Dum-Dum road in a large neglected compound. The old house served as an officers' mess but is now unoccupied and in disrepair and part of its ground floor has been gutted by fire. The old club can be seen a little beyond Clive's house and also the Church of St. Stephens with its beautiful compound and old memorial tablets and monuments.

Dum-Dum contains many private gardens belonging to Indian gentlemen which are largely used for picnics.

**Tittagarh**—Is 13 miles from Sealdah on the Eastern Bengal Railway. It is also accessible by road. The village has the usual look of an old decayed *busti*. It was once the stronghold of *thugs*, or professional murderers who used to decoy travellers and kill them by a most skilful process of strangling. They were a terror to the people. In the 19th century a special police department was formed and under Colonel Sleeman a cordon of troops gradually closed down on them and broke up the gang in Bengal and Central India. It was found that *thugs* were composed of hereditary robbers and murderers who belonged to a secret society and worshipped Bhawani or Kali, irrespective of their being Hindus or Muhammedans. "The Confessions of a Thug" by Meadows Taylor, is an instructive romance and throws a flood of light on the Thuggy system and on India generally at the time just preceding the Sepoy Mutiny of 1857.

Tittagarh has got a number of paper and jute mills. In the 18th century it could boast of a dock-yard. The "Countess of Sutherland," a ship of 1,445 tons, was launched here. It was on the bank of the Hooghly near Tittagarh factory that Job Charnock dramatically rescued from the funeral pyre the beautiful young Hindu widow whom he afterwards married. This burning ghat is still in use.

**Barrackpur**—Is a military cantonment about 14 miles from Calcutta and can be reached by train or motor-car. At Barrackpur there is a Government House standing in a beautiful park to the greater portion of which the public are allowed. It is used by His Excellency the Governor as a week-end resort.

The *Government House* is picturesquely situated on the river bank. Lord Wellesley wanted to transfer the capital here and had actually begun building a Government House, when orders to the contrary were received from England. In the park

under a fine tamarind tree is a polygonal enclosure within which is a white marble monument to Lady Canning who is buried here. The drive by road is quite pleasant and the river trip most enjoyable. There are fine golf links, a race course and the usual station club. The Mutiny of 1857 first broke out here. Its popular and original name is Chânak. The name Barrackpur is derived from its having large and extensive military barracks since 1772.

On the East Indian Railway are Lillooah, Belur, Bally, Uttarpara, Rishra, Serampore, Chandernagore, Chinsurah, Hooghly and Bandel, which last is 26 miles from Howrah Station. There is a good service of local trains the whole day between Howrah and Bandel Junction, so that all the stations mentioned above can be easily visited. Chinsurah, Hooghly and Bandel can also be reached by train from the Sealdah Station in Calcutta, but one must in that event get down at Naihati Junction Station on the E. B. Ry. and then cross over in a country boat to Chinsurah or better still take the train from Naihati Junction to Bandel Junction on the East Indian Railway, crossing the river by the fine E. I. Ry. bridge across the Hooghly. The train stops at Hooghly Ghat Station, almost at the foot of the famous *Imambara* compound, and terminates at the Bandel Junction Station. A beautiful panoramic view of Chinsurah, Hooghly and Bandel can be obtained from the railway bridge, which itself is also a fine feat of engineering, spanning the river Hooghly with only a twin pier near the centre. It is known as the Jubilee Dufferin Bridge.

Starting early from Sealdah, tea and *chota hazri* can be taken at Bandel and the return journey to Howrah accomplished by lunch time. At the Howrah Station waiting rooms, with good sanitary arrangements and baths are provided for passengers and refreshment rooms for meals.



Thus in one day from early morning, when the tourist starts at Sealdah to lunch time, when he returns to Howrah, he can finish the inspection of all places of interest on the E. I. Ry.

If he is not pressed for time, he can take them piecemeal, starting from Howrah station in the mornings or the afternoons and returning by Sealdah station or Howrah station just as he likes. He can also spend a week-end at one of the hotels in the French settlement of Chandernagore and get an idea of French life in the East.

**Lillooah**—Is three miles from Howrah on the Grand Trunk Road and is also the same distance by train. It is a pretty little garden city planned and owned by the East Indian Railway Company, and has a club, an institute for Railway employees, golf links, bowling green, fishing tank and other recreation grounds. It is the headquarters of the E. I. Railway Carriage and Wagon Department and has large workshops attached to it in which nearly 10,000 men find employment.

Contiguous to Lillooah is the village of **Belur**. It is noted for the monastery on the river bank founded by Sri Ram Krishna Paramahangsha. It is called the *Belur Math* and is near the

Belur Steamer Ghat on the river. In its compound can be seen the monument raised over the place where Swami Vivekananda was cremated. The monastery is reached by a road on the right hand side of the Grand Trunk Road about a quarter of a mile beyond the Lillooah railway settlement. It is reached most conveniently by ferry steamer from Burra Bazar Ghat.

**Bally**—Is about five miles from Howrah by rail or road and has a landing stage which can be reached by the river from the Burra Bazar Ghat in Calcutta.

It is a place of residence of a large number of Brahmins and was a seat of Sanskrit learning and a flourishing village when Calcutta was founded. It is one of the places where in 1775, with a wail and imprecation against the East India Company the terror-stricken Brahmins crying *Báp-re-Báp* plunged into the river and performed the bath of purification after witnessing the horrifying sight of the execution of Nunda Kumar. There are jute mills and a number of brick fields here.

**Uttarpara**—Is the next station about nine miles distant from Howrah. It is noted as a place of residence of high caste Hindu Brahmin zemindars and at one time formed the northern part of Bally beyond the Nullah or creek called *Bally-Khal*; hence the name Uttarpara (northern part). It is the residence of the family of a celebrated zemindar Babu Jai Kishen Mukherjee who founded the Uttarpara Library which was carefully looked after by his descendant, Raja Peary Mohan Mukherjee, C.S.I., M.A., B.L., who took great interest in education.

**Rishra**—Adjacent to Serampore within the compound of the Hastings Mills is the old "*Rishra House*," the country seat of Warren Hastings, where his wife used to be sent for a change of air or when her presence in Calcutta was not considered expedient. It is said that viewed while going along

the river its green velvet lawns and venerable trees give it the appearance of an English country seat. "Some of the trees of the ancient mango avenue are said to have been planted by the fair hands of Marian herself."\*

**Serampore**—Is about 12 miles from Howrah Station by rail. It is situated just opposite Barrackpore and can be reached from the river by special arrangement but not by the usual ferry service which terminates at Uttarpara. It was originally a Danish settlement and called Fredericsnagore after Frederick V of Denmark. It used to be a prosperous settlement until the formation of silt in the river made it impossible for the Danes to do any profitable business there and in 1845, it was sold to the British for 12 lakhs. At one time it used to be a favourite holiday resort of Calcutta people. The principal places of interest are the church and the college.

The church was built by the Danes in 1805, and Lord Wellesley is said to have subscribed a thousand rupees partly to help a good cause and also "to enjoy the view of a distant steeple from Government House opposite." The Landing Ghat faces this church. It was at Serampore that Carey, Marshman and Ward, the three Baptist Missionaries, settled in 1799 and set up their printing press. It was here that the first Bengali newspaper, dictionary and translation of the scriptures were published. "The Friend of India," now incorporated with the "Statesman," first saw light at Serampore.

The College was founded in 1818 and built in 1821, the style of architecture being Grecian. One can see Dr. Carey's chair, crutches and old pulpit,

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\* Most of the old trees have unfortunately been cut down. There is a tablet on the wall of the Rishra House, at present occupied by the Manager of the Hastings Mill, which has the following inscription:—"This House and Estate including originally 60 more bighas of land to the north known as the Rishra Bagan or Garden, was from 1780—1784, the property of Warren Hastings, Governor-General of Fort William in Bengal."

and portraits of Carey and Ward and one supposed to be of Madam Grand by Zoffany. Dr. Marshman visited Copenhagen and in 1827 obtained a Royal Charter for the College. When Serampore was transferred to the English, the rights conferred under the Charters were preserved and the College can still confer degrees—"a privilege maintained but not actually made use of" except for the Degrees of Divinity. The Serampore College is affiliated to the Calcutta University up to the B. A. Standard.

In Serampore near the settling tanks and filtering beds of the Howrah Water Works are two buildings of interest for the visitor. One called the *Aldeen House*, now used by the engineers of the Water Works, was the favourite residence of the Rev. David Brown, Provost of the College of Fort William. The other is what is known as *Martyn's Pagoda*. The name is given to it after Henry Martyn who in 1806 was given this place by Mr. Brown, to live in as he wanted a place of perfect retreat where intrusion even from servants could be avoided. Martyn, while waiting for an appointment as a chaplain up-country, and trying to forget a quaker girl who had captivated his heart, placed an organ in the Pagoda and used to pray with great fervour till the vaulted shrine resounded with his voice and his heart in his own words rejoiced at the thought "that the place where devils were worshipped had now become Christ's oratory." After the death of Mr. Brown the property changed hands and this sanctified retreat was utilized for the profane object of being used as a distillery and produced bottles of rum of the Pagoda Brand, well known in their time. After the undertaking was closed the building once more fell into disrepair and was crumbling into ruins when Lord Curzon restored it. The story connected with the original idol of the Pagoda is interesting. It is said to be made out of stone which formed the door step of the house of the

Viceroy of Gour. The stone miraculously floated down to the river bank and rested opposite this place where an image of Radhaballav was carved out of it and was housed in this Pagoda. As the river by its erosions showed a tendency to approach the shrine Radhaballav was removed to a new temple because the Brahmins who attended the shrine could not receive any gifts or meals according to their religion within 300 feet of the river bank.

*Rath Jatra* or the "Car Festival" which takes place about the middle of July every year is largely attended at Serampore. Nearly 40,000 people visit the place and many vie with each other in giving a hand in pulling the ponderous "Car of Jagannath" in its annual sojourn through the Grand Trunk Road. The visitors can inspect this huge car at any time for it is kept on the roadside till the next car festival season comes round. The Serampore car is better made and is nearly as big as the famous car of Jagannath at Puri. Ticca gharries are available at the Railway station for twelve annas per hour or by contract to take the visitor round to all places of interest at Serampore and Rishra.

**Chandernagore**—Is 21 miles from Howrah. It is the only remnant of a foreign European settlement on the banks of the river Hooghly. It is a French settlement and has a Governor and his necessary administrative officers and men. The "Hotel-de-France" and the "Thistle" are well patronised by visitors from Calcutta for week-ends. The settlement is memorable for the stubborn defence of Fort Orleans against the English. The English occupied it several times and finally relinquished it in 1817. Chandernagore was the home of the celebrated Madam Grand who was destined "to bear the palm for beauty not only by the Ganges but by the Seine." In the old French cemetery the mortuary chapel of her family can be seen inscribed with the name "Werlee." At the age of fifteen Catherine

Noel Werlee married a young English writer of Swiss origin named George François Grand, and removed to Calcutta where she became a great favourite in high society. She lived in a house in Alipore Lane and within twelve months became the heroine of a *cause célèbre* against a member of the Council, and after a lapse of several years appeared in Paris as the wife of Prince Talleyrand (*Vide* page 86).

**Chinsurah**—Is 24 miles from Howrah. It was an old Dutch settlement and got in exchange for Sumatra by the British in 1824. The fort and the Government House were demolished and English barracks constructed in their place. All that remains of Fort Gustavus is a slab in the Commissioner's house inscribed with the monogram V. O. C. and *anno domini* 1687. The visitor should see the old quaint Danish Church built in 1767. There is an older church dating from 1695. It belongs to the Armenians and is dedicated to St. John the Baptist. The old Dutch and Armenian cemeteries are also worthy of notice.

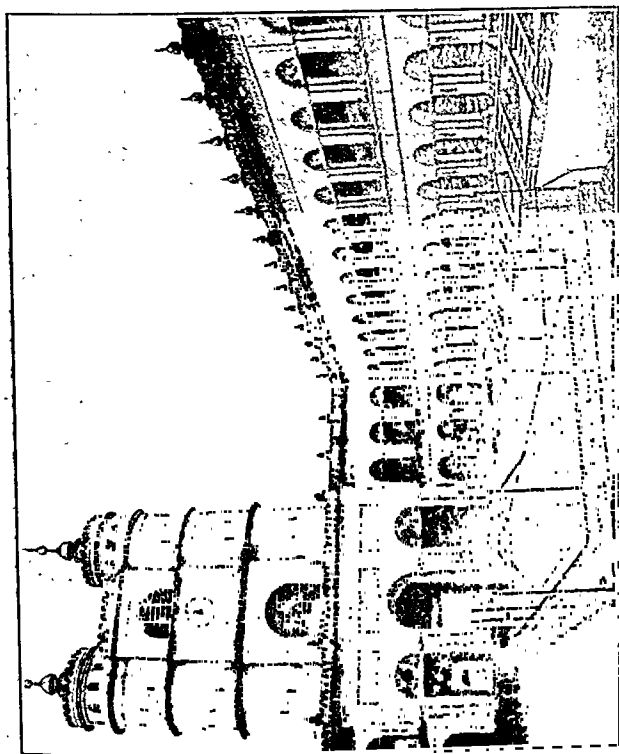
The Hooghly College is located in a fine building which originally belonged to the French General Perron. Chinsurah is the headquarters of the Commissioner of the Burdwan Division.

### **Hooghly Imambara.**

Nearly two miles above Chinsurah is Hooghly—once famous as the most prosperous port on the river which derived its name from it. The most interesting place to visit here is the *Imambara*—a Muhammadan place of worship for commemorating the martyrdom of Huseyn, the grandson of the Prophet Muhammad and son of his successor Hazrat Ali. The imposing edifice has a pair of central towers supporting a clock. The grand quadrangle inside is well worth a visit. The pulpit and its sides are covered with plates of silver and the walls of the hall and portico are ornamented with boldly carved

verses of the Quran. The *Imambara* is maintained from the funds of the bequest of the late Haji Muhammed Mohsin, who died in 1812 and left a vast fortune dedicated to works of charities.

The annual Muharram celebrations are held at this *Imambara* for 10 days and thousands of poor



HOUGHLY IMAMBARA.

people are fed and given presents. The whole building is illuminated in the most lavish and artistic Oriental style.

Haji Muhammed Mohsin was a Persian merchant belonging to the Shia sect. In early life he left home and after years of sojourn and pilgrimage

in Arabia, Persia and Central Asia returned to Hooghly to find all his relatives dead excepting his half-sister Mannu Jan Begum. She had inherited from her father and also her husband vast landed properties and wealth which she made over to her brother and spent the remainder of her life in prayers and religious devotions. Mohsin managed the estates with great ability and as he also like his sister had no heirs he executed a Trust Deed by which he left the whole property and its income for the "Work of God and charities" without restriction of caste or creed. The text of the Deed with an English translation can be seen inscribed on the northern wall of the *Imambara*, facing the river. After Mohsin's death the Trustees mismanaged the estate and its income to such an extent that Government interference became necessary. In 1835 after a protracted Civil Suit the management was vested with the Government of Bengal. In consultation with leading Muslims, Government decided that the resources of the bequest and the income which had accumulated during the years of litigation should be utilised for the advancement of education and maintenance of the religious and charitable institutions founded by the pious donor. In 1848 the present *Imambara* buildings were planned and constructed from the funds by the celebrated Motawalli, the learned Moulana Keramatali and the adjoining mosque was also repaired and enlarged.

The Hooghly College, a non-denominational institution, received generous help to bring it up to the standard of a first grade college. The Sudder Hospital and Dispensary were substantially endowed and is named "*Imambara Hospital*" where the sick of all communities are treated both as indoor and outdoor patients. There is also a *Unani* Dispensary attached to the *Imambara* where a *Hakim* prescribes treatment for those who prefer the Tibbi system of medicine.



keep of the Church. Bandel, though now a neglected and malarious place, was at one time famous for its delectable mansions, lawns and deer parks and was very much appreciated by people from Calcutta as is evident from the following lines from an old copy of the " Calcutta Gazette " :—

“ Each other place is hot as hell,  
When breezes fan you at Bandel,  
Had I ten houses all I'd sell,  
And live entirely at Bandel.”

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### GENERAL INFORMATION REGARDING TRAMS, TICCA GHARRY AND TAXI HIRES.

Tram Cars from all parts of the town pass through or terminate at **Esplanade Junction** at the top of Chowringhee Road adjoining Curzon Gardens and the **High Court** adjoining the Eden Gardens and the Strand Road South.

The fare on Tollygunge and Kalighat cars are As. 2-6, on all others As. 1-9. Through tickets transferring at different Junction stations are available at As. 3.

**Gharry Hire**, 1st Class: Re. 1-8 1st hour, As. 12 every hour or part of an hour. As. 8 per mile, As. 6 per every succeeding mile or part of a mile.

2nd Class Phaetons: Re. 1 1st hour, As. 8 every hour or part of succeeding hour. 2nd Class Bund Gharry: As. 14 1st hour, As. 8 every hour or part of an hour. 3rd Class Bund Gharry: As. 8 1st hour, As. 6 every additional hour or part of an hour.

**Taxis**, As. 10 per mile, As. 2 for every additional 5th mile. Waiting charges Re. 1-14 per hour or As. 2 for every four minutes. Extra charge of As. 6 for each additional person above 2 passengers.

**Buses**, As. 4 per passenger.

# APPENDIX.

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1. ALBION THEATRE, 4, Corporation Street, Phone Calcutta 1661.
2. GLOBE CINEMA Co., GRAND OPERA HOUSE, 7, Lindsay Street, Phone Calcutta 1571.
3. CORNWALLIS THEATRE, 138, Cornwallis Street, Phone Calcutta 3040.
4. ELPHINSTONE PICTURE PALACE, Corporation Place, Phone Calcutta 2784.
5. KIDDERPORE CINEMA, 131-2, Circular Garden Reach Road, Phone Calcutta 1582.
6. PICTURE HOUSE, 19, Chowringhee Road, Phone Calcutta 3139.
7. PHENIX PICTURE THEATRE, 150, Lower Chitpore Road, Phone Calcutta 3863.
8. RIFON THEATRE, 38, Machua Bazar Street, Phone Calcutta 1844.

### THEATRES.

#### *Hindustani.*

1. ALFRED THEATRE, 91, Harrison Road, Phone Calcutta 1544.
2. CORINTHIAN THEATRE, 5, Dhuramtola Street, Phone Calcutta 1273.

#### *English.*

3. EMPIRE THEATRE, Chowringhee Place, Phone Calcutta 877.
4. GLOBE CINEMA Co., GRAND OPERA HOUSE, 7, Lindsay Street, Phone Calcutta 1571.

#### *Bengali.*

5. MINERVA THEATRE, 6, Beadon Street, Phone Calcutta 354.
6. MONMOHAN THEATRE, 68, Beadon Street, Phone Calcutta 1717.
7. STAR THEATRE, 79-3-3, Cornwallis Street, Phone Calcutta 1139.

### PRINCIPAL CLUBS.

1. ALBERT CLUB, "Grosvenor House" Larkin's Lane, Phone Calcutta 3672.
2. BENGAL CLUB, 33, Chowringhee Road, Phone Calcutta 4406 (2 Lines).

### PRINCIPAL CLUBS.—(Continued.)

3. BENGAL UNITED SERVICE CLUB, 29, Chowringhee Road, Regent 108.
4. CALCUTTA CLUB, 241, Lower Circular Road, Phone Calcutta 933.
5. DELTA CLUB, 4, Kyd Street, Phone Calcutta 4342.
6. JODHPUR CLUB (GOLF), Gharia Hat Road, Dhakuria, Phone Calcutta 451.
7. NEW CLUB, 38, Chowringhee Road, Phone Calcutta 61.
8. ROYAL CALCUTTA GOLF CLUB, Calcutta Maidan and Tollygunj, Phone Calcutta 2788.
9. ROYAL CALCUTTA TURF CLUB, 11, Russel Street. Phone Calcutta 5653 (2 Lines.)
10. SATURDAY CLUB, 7, Wood Street, Phone Calcutta 554.
11. TOLLYGUNJ GYMKHANA CLUB, Phone Calcutta 5907.
12. MINIATURE RIFLE RANGE, Junction of Lower Circular Road and Kidderpore Road.
13. FREEMASONS' HALL, 19, Park Street, Phone Calcutta 689.
14. BRITISH INDIA ENGINEERS' CLUB, 2, Royal Exchange Place, Phone Calcutta 207.
15. OFFICE OF ST. JOHN'S AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION AND RED CROSS SOCIETY, 5, Government Place, Calcutta.

### HOTELS.

1. BRISTOL HOTEL, 2, Chowringhee, Road, Phone Calcutta 1509.
2. CONTINENTAL HOTEL, 12, Chowringhee, Phone Calcutta 430.
3. GRAND HOTEL, 15, Chowringhee, Phone Calcutta 4710 (3 Lines).
4. GREAT EASTERN HOTEL, 3, Old Court House Street, Phone Calcutta 255.
5. HOTEL DE FRANCE, Chandernagore, Phone Howrah 82.
6. SPENCE'S HOTEL, 4, Wellesley Place, Phone Calcutta 225.
7. TRACADERO HOTEL, Esplanade, East.
8. WALLACE'S HOTEL, 21, Lindsay Street, Phone Calcutta 1744.

### RESTAURANTS.

1. BRISTOL GRILL, 5, Royal Exchange Place, Phone Calcutta 1510.
2. GRAND CAFE, Chowringhee, Phone Calcutta 4710 (3 Lines).
3. FIRPO'S RESTAURANT, 18-2, Chowringhee Road, Phone Calcutta 1402.



RESTAURANTS.—(*Continued.*)

4. PELITI'S RESTAURANT, 11, Government Place East. Phone Calcutta 590.
5. MONICO'S RESTAURANT, Chowringhee.
6. TROCADERO, Esplanade East.
7. WALLACE'S 21, Lindsay Street, Phone Calcutta 1744.

## HOSPITALS AND DISPENSARIES.

1. ALBERT VICTOR ASYLUM FOR LEPERS, 18, Gobra Road, Entally.
2. ALBERT VICTOR HOSPITAL, 1, Belgachia Road. Phone Calcutta 2510.
3. ALIPORE POLICE CASE HOSPITAL, 32, Belvedere Road, Phone Regent 733.
4. ALIPORE POLICE HOSPITAL, 11, Jail Road.
5. BHAGWAN DAS BAGLA, RAI BAHADUR'S MARWARI HINDU HOSPITAL, 128, Harrison Road.
6. BECHULAL DISPENSARY, 6, Bechulal Road.
7. CALCUTTA FREE HOSPITAL, 191, Bowbazar Street.
8. CALCUTTA HOMOEOPATHIC HOSPITAL SOCIETY, 265, Upper Circular Road.
9. CAMPBELL HOSPITAL, 138, Lower Circular Road, Phone Calcutta 131.
10. CHETLA DISPENSARY, 64, Moyerpore Road.
11. CHUNILAL SEAL'S CHARITABLE DISPENSARY, 89, College Street. (Out patient's department M. C. H.)
12. EDEN HOSPITAL FOR DISEASES PECULIAR TO WOMEN AND CHILDREN, 88, College Street, Phone Calcutta 844.
- 12a. ELECTRICAL AND RADIOLOGICAL THERAPEUTIC HALL, 191/1, Bowbazar Street.
13. EZRA HOSPITAL (FOR JEWS), 41-1, Kalutola, Street.
14. EUROPEAN LUNATIC ASYLUM, 7, Bhowanipore Road.
15. KING'S HOSPITAL, 301-3, Upper Circular Road.
16. KALIGHAT DISPENSARY, 70, Kalighat Street.
17. KIDDERPORE DISPENSARY, 4, Pipe Road.
18. LADY DUFFERIN VICTORIA (PURDAH ZENANA) HOSPITAL, 1, Amherst Street, Phone Calcutta 1113.
19. MAYO INDIAN HOSPITAL, 67-1, Strand Road, North, Phone Calcutta 236.

*Branches:—*

Chandney Hospital, 5, Temple Street; Chitpore Dispensary, 209, Chitpore Road Sukea Street Dispensary, 39, Sukea Street.

HOSPITALS AND DISPENSARIES.—(*Continued.*)

20. MEDICAL COLLEGE, HOSPITAL, 88, College Street, Phone Calcutta 302.
21. PAYING PATIENT'S BLOCK, Medical College Hospital, Eden Hospital Road.
22. PRESIDENCY GENERAL HOSPITAL, 244, Lower Circular Road, Phone Calcutta 288.
23. PRINCE OF WALES' HOSPITAL (SURGICAL BLOCK, MEDICAL COLLEGE HOSPITAL), Phone Calcutta 1230.
24. SAMBHUDHANATH PANDIT HOSPITAL, 11, Elgin Road, Bhowanipore, Phone Calcutta 1374.
25. SREE VISHUDHANAND SARASWATI MARWARI HOSPITAL, 118, Amherst Street.
26. SHAMA CHARAN DEY EYE INFIRMARY (MEDICAL COLLEGE HOSPITAL), 42, Kalutola Street.
27. STATION HOSPITAL (MILITARY), 245, Lower Circular Road, Regent 201.
28. ST. CATHERINE'S HOSPITAL—(HOME FOR INCURABLES), 68, Diamond Harbour Road, Kidderpore.
29. VOLUNTARY VENEREAL HOSPITAL, 3, Bhowanipore Road, Alipore.
30. HOWRAH GENERAL HOSPITAL, Telkul Ghat Road, Phone Howrah 42.

## BANKS.

1. ALLAHABAD BANK, 6, Royal Exchange, Phone Calcutta 1147.
2. IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA, 3, Strand Road, Phone Calcutta 4330.
3. COX & Co., 101/1, Clive Street. Phone Calcutta 4520.
4. EASTERN BANK, LTD., 9, Clive Street, Phone Calcutta 1215.
5. GRINDLAY & Co., 11, Hastings Street, Phone Calcutta 14.
6. KING HAMILTON & Co., 5, Koila Ghat Street, Phone Calcutta 6.
7. NATIONAL BANK OF INDIA, 104, Clive Street, Phone Calcutta 257.
8. THOMAS COOK & SON, 9, Old Court House Street, Phone Calcutta 60.
9. ALLIANCE BANK OF SIMLA, 8, Council House Street, Phone Calcutta 3716.
10. CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA, AUSTRALIA AND CHINA, Clive Street, Phone Calcutta 575.
11. MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA, 8, Clive Street, Phone Calcutta 830 (2 Lines).

## CONSULATES IN CALCUTTA.

- America.—9, Esplanade Mansions, Phone Calcutta 250.  
 Argentine Republic.—5, Fairlie Place.  
 Belgium.—3, Harington Mansions.  
 Bolivia.—65, Pathuriaghatta Street.  
 Brazil.—10, Strand Road.  
 Chili.—13, Ezra Mansions, Government Place.  
 Costa Rica.—65, Pathuriaghatta Street.  
 Cuba.—5, Hastings Street.  
 Denmark.—4, Fairlie Place.  
 Ecuador.—65, Pathuriaghatta Street.  
 France.—11, Rawdon Street.  
 Greece.—23, Canning Street.  
 Guatemala.—2, Royal Exchange Place.  
 Italy.—23, Harington Mansions, Phone Calcutta 474.  
 Japan.—7, Loudon Street, Phone Calcutta 582.  
 Liberia.—5, Commercial Buildings, Phone Calcutta 5660.  
 Mexico.—11, Clive Street.  
 Netherlands.—F3, Clive Buildings, Phone Calcutta 806.  
 Norway.—87, Park Street, Phone Calcutta 4155.  
 Persia.—51, Ezra Street.  
 Peru.—Chartered Bank Buildings.  
 Portugal.—147, Bow Bazar Street, Phone Calcutta 4530.  
 Russia.—10, Government Place.  
 Siam.—2, Dover Park, Ballygunge, Phone Calcutta 1957.  
 Spain.—5 and 6, Hare Street.  
 Sweden.—4B, Little Russell Street, Phone Calcutta 3211.  
 Uruguay.—3, Fairlie Place.  
 Venezuela.—65, Pathuriaghatta Street.  
 Germany.—2, Store Road, Ballygunge, Phone Calcutta 5256.

## POLICE HEAD QUARTERS.

18, Lall Bazar Street, Phone Calcutta 2300 (4 Lines).

## PORT AND SHIPPING OFFICES.

15-1, Strand Road, Phone Calcutta 35.

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